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Remarks:

The applicant has subsequently filed a sequence listing and declared, that it includes no new matter.

- (54) Infection with chimaeric adenoviruses of cells negative for the adenovirus serotype 5 Coxsacki adenovirus receptor (CAR)
- (57) The invention relates to the field of molecular genetics and medicine. The invention discloses a method for delivering a nucleic acid of interest to a host cell by means of a gene delivery vehicle based on adenoviral material, whereby said gene delivery vehicle delivers

the nucleic acid to the host cell by associating with a binding site and/or a receptor present on CAR-negative cells, said binding site and/or receptor being a binding site and/or a receptor for adenovirus subgroups D and/or F

Description

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[0001] The invention relates to the field of molecular genetics and medicine. In particular the present invention relates to the field of gene therapy, more in particular to gene therapy using adenoviruses.

[0002] In gene therapy, genetic information is delivered to a host cell in order to either correct (supplement) a genetic deficiency in said cell, or to inhibit an unwanted function in said cell, or to eliminate said host cell. Of course the genetic information can also be intended to provide the host cell with a wanted function, for instance to supply a secreted protein to treat other cells of the host, etc.

[0003] Thus there are basically three different approaches in gene therapy, one directed towards compensating a deficiency present in a (mammalian) host; the second directed towards the removal or elimination of unwanted substances (organisms or cells) and the third towards providing a cell with a wanted function.

[0004] For the purpose of gene therapy, adenoviruses have been proposed as suitable vehicles to deliver genes to the host. Gene-transfer vectors derived from adenoviruses (so-called adenoviral vectors) have a number of features that make them particularly useful for gene transfer. 1) the biology of the adenoviruses is characterised in detail, 2) the adenovirus is not associated with severe human pathology, 3) the virus is extremely efficient in introducing its DNA into the host cell, 4) the virus can infect a wide variety of cells and has a broad host-range, 5) the virus can be produced at high virus titers in large quantities, and 6) the virus can be rendered replication defective by deletion of the early-region 1 (E1) of the viral genome (Brody et al, 1994).

[0005] However, there are still drawbacks associated with the use of adenoviral vectors especially the well investigated serotypes of subgroup C adenoviruses. These serotypes require the presence of the Coxsacki adenovirus receptor (CAR) on cells for successful infection. Although this protein is expressed by many cells and established cell lines, this protein is absent for many other primary cells and cell lines making the latter cells difficult to infect with serotypes 1, 2, 5, and 6.

[0006] The adenovirus genome is a linear double-stranded DNA molecule of approximately 36000 base pairs. The adenovirus DNA contains identical Inverted Terminal Repeats (ITR) of approximately 90-140 base pairs with the exact length depending on the serotype. The viral origins of replication are within the ITRs exactly at the genome ends.

[0007] Most adenoviral vectors currently used in gene therapy have a deletion in the E1 region, where novel genetic information can be introduced. The E1 deletion renders the recombinant virus replication defective (Levrero et al., 1991). It has been demonstrated extensively that recombinant adenovirus, in particular serotype 5 is suitable for efficient transfer of genes *in vivo* to the liver, the airway epithelium and solid tumours in animal models and human xenografts in immunodeficient mice (Bout, 1996; Blaese *et al.*, 1995). Thus, preferred methods for *in vivo* gene transfer into target cells make use of adenoviral vectors as gene delivery vehicles.

[0008] At present, six different subgroups of human adenoviruses have been proposed which in total encompasses 51 distinct adenovirus serotypes. Besides these human adenoviruses an extensive number of animal adenoviruses have been identified (see Ishibashi et al, 1983).

[0009] A serotype is defined on the basis of its immunological distinctiveness as determined by quantitative neutralisation with animal antisera (horse, rabbit). If neutralisation shows a certain degree of cross-reaction between two viruses, distinctiveness of serotype is assumed if A) the hemagglutinins are unrelated, as shown by lack of cross-reaction on hemagglutination-inhibition, or B) substantial biophysical/ biochemical differences in DNA exist (Francki et al, 1991). The nine serotypes identified last (42-51) were isolated for the first time from HIV- infected patients (Hierholzer et al 1988; Schnurr et al 1993; De Jong et al 1998). For reasons not well understood, most of such immuno-compromised patients shed adenoviruses that were rarely or never isolated from immuno-competent individuals (Hierholzer et al 1988, 1992; Khoo et al, 1995, De Jong et al, 1998).

[0010] The adenovirus serotype 5 is most widely used for gene therapy purposes. Similar to serotypes 2, 4 and 7, serotype 5 has a natural affiliation towards lung epithelia and other respiratory tissues. In contrast, it is known that, for instance, serotypes 40 and 41 have a natural affiliation towards the gastrointestinal tract. For a detailed overview of the disease association of the different adenovirus serotypes see table 1. The underlying reason for the different natural affiliations of serotypes towards specific organs can be manifold. Such reasons may include but need not be limited to the observation that serotypes differ in the route of infection or make use of different receptor molecules or internalisation pathways or that a serotype can infect many tissues/organs but it can only replicate in one organ because of the requirement of certain cellular factors for replication. As mentioned before, it is presently unknown which mechanisms are responsible for the observed differences in human disease association.

[0011] One of the problems associated with the development of effective Gene Therapy protocols for the treatment of disease is the limitation of the current vectors to effectively transduce cells *in vivo*. One of the most effective ways to deliver foreign genetic material to cells *in vivo* is through the use of adenovirus vectors. Although, the vector system is very efficient the current adenovirus vector technology has its limitation. Specifically were certain cell types need to be transduced that are normally not very efficiently transduced by Adenovirus 2 or 5. Examples of such relatively resistant cell types include endothelial cells, smooth muscle cells, dendritic cells, neuronal cells, glial cells, synovical

cells, primary fibroblasts, cells from the amniotic fluid, hemopoietic stem cells, and monocytic/ macrophage cells etc. Thus in one aspect the invention provides a method for delivering a nucleic acid of interest to a host cell by means of a gene delivery vehicle based on adenoviral material, whereby said gene delivery vehicle delivers the nucleic acid to the host cell by associating with a binding site and/or a receptor present on CAR-negative cells, said binding site and/or receptor being a binding site and/or a receptor for adenovirus subgroups D and/or F. The method may advantageously be used to efficiently transduce cells both *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

[0012] The present invention was made during research with chimaeric adenoviruses. Said chimaeric adenoviruses comprising capsids derived from adenovirus 5 of which at least part of the adenovirus 5 fiber protein was replaced by a fiber protein from a different adenovirus serotype. It was observed that chimaeric adenoviruses comprising fiber protein from adenovirus serotypes belonging to subgroup D or subgroup F were capable of efficiently transducing CAR negative target cells.

[0013] Adenovirus 2 and 5 belong to adenovirus subgroup C. Together with the adenoviruses of subgroups A, D-F, the subgroup C adenoviruses were before the present invention thought to attach to cells via the Coxsacki adenovirus receptor (CAR) (Roelvink et al, 1998).

[0014] It has been shown that adenoviruses of subgroup B such as Ad3 bind to a different receptor than CAR (Defer et al, 1990). Likewise, it was demonstrated that receptor specificity could be altered by exchanging the Ad3 with the Ad 5 knob protein, and vice versa (Krasnykh et al, 1996; Stevenson et al, 1995, 1997).

[0015] A host cell may be any host cell as long at it comprises a binding site and/or a receptor present on CAR-negative cells, said binding site and/or receptor being a binding site and/or a receptor for adenovirus subgroups D and/or F. Preferably, said cell is a human cell. Said cell may be a cell present in a culture dish or be part of a whole organism.

[0016] Preferably said CAR-negative cells are hemopoietic cells or amniotic fluid cells or derivatives thereof. Preferably, said CAR-negative hemopoietic cells are K562 cells. Preferably, said CAR-negative amniotic fluid cells are amniotic villi or chorion villi cells or derivatives thereof.

[0017] A gene delivery vehicle according to the invention may be any vehicle capable of transferring nucleic acid into cells. Preferably, said gene delivery vehicle is a viral vector particle, more preferably said gene delivery vehicle is an adenoviral vector particle. The word gene in the term gene delivery vehicle does not reflect a situation wherein always an entire gene is delivered by said vehicle. The word gene in this respect merely reflects the presence of a nucleic acid of interest. Said nucleic acid may comprise an entire gene, an artificial sequence, a recombinant nucleic acid, a protein coding domain, a cDNA, a sequence coding for anti-sense RNA, mRNA and/or other kind of nucleic acid. [0018] Suitable adenovirus material may comprise an adenovirus capsid or a functional part, derivative and/or analogue thereof. Said adenovirus capsid preferably comprises an adenovirus subgroup D or subgroup F capsid, or a functional part, derivative and/or analogue thereof. Said adenovirus and/or analogue thereof. Said adenovirus capsid may also be a chimaeric capsid comprising proteins or parts thereof from at least two different adenovirus serotypes or derivatives and/or analogues thereof. Preferably, at least part of a fiber protein of said chimaeric capsid is derived from an adenovirus of subgroup D and/or subgroup F or a functional derivative and/or analogue thereof. Preferably, capsid proteins other then said part of a fiber protein, are derived from an adenovirus of subgroup C, preferably of adenovirus 5 or adenovirus 2. Suitable derivatives of said adenovirus capsids may, among other, be obtained through so-called silent amino-acid substitution in one or more capsid proteins.

[0019] Preferably, said adenovirus material comprises at least part of an adenovirus fiber protein. Preferably, said adenovirus fiber protein is derived from an adenovirus of subgroup D or subgroup F or a functional part, derivative and/or analogue thereof. Preferably, said part of a fiber protein is a part involved in binding to a receptor and/or a binding site on a target cell. Typically, but not necessarily said part of an adenovirus fiber protein involved in binding to a receptor and/or a binding site on a target cell is a part of the knob. Adenovirus fiber protein comprises at least three functional regions. One region, the base, is responsible for anchoring the fiber to a penton base of the adenovirus capsid. Another region, the knob, is typically associated with receptor recognition whereas the shaft region functions as a spacer separating the base from the knob. Various regions may also have other functions. For instance, the shaft is presumably also involved in target cell specificity. Each of the regions mentioned above may be used to define a part of a fiber. However, regions of a fiber may also be identified in another way. For instance the knob region comprises of a receptor binding region and a shaft binding region. Moreover, the shaft comprises of repeated stretches of amino acids. Each of these repeated stretches may be a part.

A receptor and/or binding site binding part of a fiber protein may be a single region of a fiber protein or a functional part thereof, or a combination of regions or parts thereof of at least one fiber protein, wherein said receptor and/or binding site binding part of a fiber protein, either alone or in combination with one or more other proteins of a adenovirus capsid, determines the efficiency with which a gene delivery vehicle can transduce a given cell or cell type, preferably but not necessarily in a positive way. Needless to say that said fiber and/or a capsid may comprise further modifications to adapt the fiber protein and/or the capsid to specific other needs, which a person skilled in the art will be capable of doing.

[0020] A receptor and/or a binding site for adenovirus subgroups D and/or F may be any kind of molecule capable of associating with an adenovirus of subgroup D and/or F. In and/or on the surface of a cell, said receptor and/or binding site must be able to associate with said adenovirus of subgroup D and/or F provided to said cell. Said receptor and/or binding site may be part of a complex present in and/or on said cell. Said receptor and/or binding site does not need to be able to associate with an adenovirus of subgroup D and/or F all the time as long as it is capable of doing so some of the time. Said receptor and/or binding site may further also be a receptor and/or binding site for another virus and/or gene delivery vehicle, although this does not have to be so. A person skilled in the art may want to determine whether an adenovirus serotype belonging to another subgroup than D and/or F can also utilise the receptor and/or binding site for adenovirus subgroups D and/or F.

[0021] In another aspect the invention provides the use of a gene delivery vehicle comprising a nucleic acid of interest and comprising adenoviral material involved in binding to a host cell, said material being from a subgroup D and/or F adenovirus, in delivering said nucleic acid of interest to a CAR-negative cell. With the knowledge of a novel pathway for the transduction of cells using adenovirus material it becomes possible to approach this novel pathway also through other means then said material derived from a subgroup D and/or F. A person skilled in the art recognises this and will be able to devise means to accomplish this for instance through the use of antibodies directed toward a crucial component of said pathway, together with a membrane fusion peptide. Such means and methods are also within the scope of the invention.

[0022] In another aspect the invention provides a gene delivery vehicle being a chimaera based on at least two adenoviruses, whereby a cell recognising element of said gene delivery vehicle is based on adenoviral material from a subgroup D and/or F adenovirus, which material confers the capability of infecting CAR negative cells.

[0023] Preferably, said adenoviral material is based on the fiber, penton and/or hexon proteins of a subgroup D and/or subgroup F adenovirus.

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[0024] To date, six different subgroups of human adenoviruses have been proposed which in total encompasses 51 distinct adenovirus serotypes. A serotype is defined on the basis of its immunological distinctiveness as determined by quantitative neutralisation with animal antisera (horse, rabbit). If neutralisation shows a certain degree of cross-reaction between two viruses, distinctiveness of serotype is assumed if A) the hemagglutinins are unrelated, as shown by lack of cross-reaction on hemagglutination-inhibition, or B) substantial biophysical/ biochemical differences in DNA exist (Francki et al, 1991). The nine serotypes identified last (42-51) were isolated for the first time from HIV-infected patients (Hierholzer et al 1988; Schnurr et al 1993;). For reasons not well understood, most of such immune-compromised patients shed adenoviruses that were rarely or never isolated from immune-competent individuals (Hierholzer et al 1988, 1992; Khoo et al, 1995, De Jong et al, 1998). The usefulness of these adenoviruses or cross-immunising adenoviruses to prepare gene delivery vehicles may be seriously hampered, since the individual to which the gene delivery vehicle is provided, will raise a neutralising response to such a vehicle before long.

[0025] There is thus a need in the field of gene therapy to provide gene delivery vehicles, preferably based on adenoviruses, which do not encounter pre-existing immunity and/or which are capable of avoiding or diminishing neutralising antibody responses. Thus preferably, a gene delivery vehicle of the invention further comprises an element from adenovirus 35 or a functional equivalent thereof, responsible for at least partially avoiding an immune response against adenovirus 35. A functional equivalent/homologue of adenovirus 35 (element) for the purpose of the present invention is an adenovirus (element) which, like adenovirus 35, encounters pre-existing immunity in less than about 10% of the hosts, at least in a significant geographic region of the world, to which it is administered for the first time, or which is capable in more than about 90% of the hosts, at least in a significant geographic region of the world, to which it is administered to avoid or diminish the immune response. Typical examples of such adenoviruses are adenovirus serotypes 34, 26 and 48.

[0026] In another embodiment a gene delivery vehicle according to the invention comprises an element of adenovirus 16 or a functional equivalent thereof, which element confers said virus with an enhanced capability to infect smooth muscle cells and/or synoviocytes. A functional equivalent of an element of adenovirus 16 in this respect is an element from another subgroup B virus. Preferably, said element is a tissue tropism determining part of a fiber protein. Typically, a tissue tropism determining part of an adenovirus fiber protein is a part that influences the transduction efficiency of a cell.

[0027] For Gene Therapeutic purposes one typically does not want an adenovirus batch to be administered to a host cell which contains replication competent adenovirus, although this is not always true. In general therefor it is desired to omit a number of genes (but at least one) from the adenoviral genome on the vector encoding the virus and to supply these genes in the genome of the cell in which the vector is brought to produce adenovirus. Such a cell is usually called a packaging cell. The invention thus also provides a packaging cell for producing an adenovirus according to the invention, comprising in trans, all elements necessary for adenovirus production not present on the adenoviral vector according to the invention. Typically vector and packaging cell have to be adapted to one another in that they have all the necessary elements, but that they do not have overlapping elements which lead to replication competent virus by recombination. In a preferred embodiment said packaging cell is, or is derived from PER.C6 (ECCAC deposit number

96022940).

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[0028] In another embodiment, a gene delivery vehicle according to the invention comprises an adenovirus vector. Said adenovirus vector may be a classical adenovirus vector, a minimal adenovirus vector or an integrating adenovirus such as an Ad/AAV chimaeric vector, a retro-adenovirus or a transposon-adenovirus or yet another different kind of adenovirus vector. With an integrating adenovirus vector for the purpose of the invention is meant a vector comprising nucleic acid derived from an adenovirus and further comprising means for the integration of at least part of the nucleic acid of said vector into the host cell genome. Said means are preferably derived from a nucleic acid with the inherent capacity to integrate into the host cell genome. Such nucleic acid with the inherent capacity to integrate into the host cell genome may derived from a transposon or transposon-like element, a retrovirus and/or an adeno-associated virus or a different virus with the capacity to integrate nucleic acid into the host cell genome.

[0029] In a preferred embodiment said adenovirus vector comprises nucleic acid encoding at least a receptor and/ or binding site determining part of a fiber protein of an adenovirus of subgroup D or subgroup F. In a preferred embodiment the invention provides a method for producing said adenovirus vector, comprising welding together, preferably through homologous recombination, two nucleic acid molecules comprising partially overlapping sequences wherein said overlapping sequences allow essentially only one homologous recombination which leads to the generation of a physically linked nucleic acid comprising at least two functional adenovirus inverted terminal repeats, a functional encapsulation signal and a nucleic acid of interest or functional parts, derivatives and/or analogues thereof. In a preferred embodiment at least one of said at least two nucleic acid molecules comprises nucleic acid encoding at least a receptor and/or binding site determining part of a fiber protein of an adenovirus of subgroup D or subgroup F. An important aspect in this embodiment of the invention is that said partially overlapping sequences allow essentially only homologous recombination leading to the generation of a functional adenovirus vector capable of being replicated and packaged into adenovirus particles in the presence of the required transacting functions. With essentially only one is meant that said overlapping sequences in each nucleic acid comprise essentially only one continuous sequence wherein homologous recombination leading to the generation of a functional adenovirus may occur. Within said continuous sequence the actual number of homologous recombination events may be higher than one. Non continuous overlapping sequences are not desired because they reduce the reliability of said method. Non continuous overlapping sequences are also not desired because they reduce the overall efficiency of said method, presumably due to the generation of undesired homologous recombination products.

[0030] A preferred embodiment of the invention provides a method for generating an adenovirus vector wherein both of said nucleic acid molecules comprise only one adenovirus inverted terminal repeat or a functional part, derivative and/or analogue thereof. In one aspect one or both of said two nucleic acid molecules have undergone modifications prior to said welding together. Said modification may include the welding together of different nucleic acid molecules leading to the generation of one or both of said two nucleic acid molecules. In a preferred embodiment said different nucleic acids are welded together through homologous recombination of partially overlapping sequences. In a further aspect said welding together is performed in a cell or a functional part, derivative and/or analogue thereof. Preferably said cell is a mammalian cell. More preferably, said welding together is performed in a cell expressing E1-region encoded proteins. Preferably said cell is a PER.C6 cell (ECACC deposit number 96022940) or a derivative thereof. In a preferred embodiment said nucleic acid molecules are not capable of replicating in said mammalian cell prior to said welding together. Said replication is undesired since it reduces the reliability of the methods of the invention presumably through providing additional targets for undesired homologous recombination. Said replication is also not desired because it reduces the efficiency of the methods of the invention presumably because said replication competes for substrate or adenovirus transacting functions with the replication of said adenovirus vector.

[0031] In a preferred embodiment, one of said nucleic acid molecules is relatively small and the other is relatively large. This configuration is advantageous because it allows easy manipulation of said relatively small nucleic acid molecule allowing for example the generation of a large number of small nucleic acid molecules comprising different nucleic acid of interest for instance for the generation of an adenovirus vector library. Said configuration is also desired because it allows the production of a large batch of quality tested large nucleic acid molecule. The amplification of large nucleic acid molecules for instance in bacteria is difficult in terms of obtaining sufficient amounts of said large nucleic acid. The amplification of large nucleic acid molecules for instance in bacteria is also difficult to control because a small modification of said large nucleic acid is not easily detected. Moreover, for reasons not quite understood some large vectors are more stable in bacteria or yeasts than others. Said configuration however, allows the generation of a standard batch of a large nucleic acid molecule which can be thoroughly tested, for instance through generating a control adenovirus of which the efficiency and the reliability of production is known, and determining said parameters of a new batch of large nucleic acid molecule. Once validated said batch may be used for the generation of a large number of different adenovirus vectors through combining said large molecule with a large number of different small nucleic acid molecules. Said system therefore also allows for the selection and/or manipulation of vectors comprising a large nucleic acid molecule of the invention to allow a suitable yield of intact large nucleic acid.

[0032] In another embodiment said cell comprising nucleic acid encoding E1-region proteins further comprises a

nucleic acid encoding an adenovirus E2-region and/or an adenovirus E4-region protein. Preferably, said cell further comprising nucleic acid encoding an adenovirus E2-region and/or an adenovirus E4-region protein is a derivative of PER.C6.

[0033] In another aspect the invention provides a receptor and/or a binding site for adenoviruses type D and/or F, present on or associated with CAR negative cells. Preferably said receptor and/or a binding site is present on K562 cells, amniotic fluid derived cells and/or primary fibroblast cells.

[0034] In yet another aspect, the invention provides the use of receptor and/or a binding site for adenoviruses type D and/or F, present in and/or on a cell, for the delivery nucleic acid to said cell.

[0035] In yet another embodiment the invention provides the use of a gene delivery vehicle according to anyone of claims 1-14, in a pharmaceutical.

[0036] In another aspect the invention provides a capsid protein derived from a subgroup D and/or a subgroup F adenovirus or a functional part, derivative and/or analogue thereof. Preferably, said protein is a fiber protein. The invention further provides a nucleic acid encoding a capsid protein of the invention. Preferably, said nucleic acid comprises a fiber sequence from a subgroup D and/or a subgroup F as depicted in figure 7.

Detailed description.

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[0037] It has been demonstrated in mice that upon *in vivo* systemic delivery of recombinant adenovirus serotype 5 for gene therapy purposes approximately 99% of the virus is trapped in the liver (Herz et al, 1993). Therefore, alteration of the adenovirus serotype 5 host cell range to be able to target other organs *in vivo* is a major interest of the invention. [0038] The initial step for successful infection is binding of adenovirus to its target cell, a process generally thought to be mediated through fiber protein. The fiber protein has a trimeric structure (Stouten et al, 1992) with different lengths depending on the virus serotype (Signas et al 1985; Kidd et all 1993). Different serotypes have polypeptides with structurally similar N and C termini, but different middle stem regions. N-terminally, the first 30 amino acids are involved in anchoring of the fiber to the penton base (Chroboczek et al, 1995), especially the conserved FNPVYP region in the tail (Arnberg et al 1997). The C-terminus, or knob, is generally thought to be responsible for initial interaction with the cellular adenovirus receptor. After this initial binding secondary binding between the capsid penton base and cell-surface integrins is proposed to lead to internalisation of viral particles in coated pits and endocytosis (Morgan et al, 1969; Svensson et al, 1984; Varga et al, 1992; Greber et al, 1993; Wickham et al, 1994).

[0039] Integrins are $\alpha\beta$ -heterodimers of which at least 14 α -subunits and 8 β -subunits have been identified (Hynes et al, 1992). The array of integrins expressed in cells is complex and will vary between cell types and cellular environment. Although the knob contains some conserved regions, between serotypes, knob proteins show a high degree of variability, indicating that different adenovirus receptors might exist. For instance, it has been demonstrated that adenoviruses of subgroup C (Ad2, Ad5) and adenoviruses of subgroup B (Ad3) bind to different receptors (Defner et al, 1990). By using baculovirus produced soluble CAR as well as adenovirus serotype 5 knob protein, Roelvink et all concluded via interference studies that all adenovirus serotypes, except serotypes of subgroup B, enter cells via CAR (Roelvink et al, 1998). The latter, which is now generally accepted in the field, if valid should thus limit the complexity of using different serotypes for gene therapy purposes.

[0040] Besides the involvement in cell binding, the fiber protein also contains the type specific γ -antigen, which together with the ϵ -antigen of the hexon determines the serotype specificity. The γ -antigen is localised on the fiber and it is known that it consists of 17 amino acids (Eiz et al, 1997). The anti-fiber antibodies of the host are therefore directed to the trimeric structure of the knob. To obtain re-directed infection of recombinant adenovirus serotype 5, several approaches have been or still are under investigation. Wickham et al has altered the RGD (Arg, Gly, Asp) motif in the penton base which is believed to be responsible for the $\alpha_v\beta_3$ and $\alpha_v\beta_5$ integrin binding to the penton base. They have replaced this RGD motif by another peptide motif which is specific for the $\alpha_4\beta_1$ receptor. In this way targeting the adenovirus to a specific target cell could be accomplished (Wickham et al, 1995, 1996). Krasnykh et al has made use of the HI loop available in the knob. This loop is, based on X-ray crystallographics, located on the outside of the knob trimeric structure and therefore is thought not to contribute to the intramolecular interactions in the knob (Krasnykh et al, 1998). However, complete CAR independent infection was not observed.

[0041] It is an object of the present invention to provide a method and means by which an adenovirus can infect cells negative for the CAR protein. Therefore, the generation of chimaeric adenoviruses based on adenovirus serotype 5 with a modified fiber gene is described. For this purpose, two or three plasmids, which together contain the complete adenovirus serotype 5 genome, were constructed. From a plasmid the DNA encoding the adenovirus serotype 5 fiber protein was essentially removed and replaced by linker DNA sequences which facilitate easy cloning. This plasmid subsequently served as template for the insertion of DNA encoding for fiber protein derived from different adenovirus serotypes (human or animal). The DNAs derived from the different serotypes were obtained using the polymerase chain reaction technique in combination with (degenerate) oligonucleotides. At the former E1 location in the genome of adenovirus serotype 5, any gene of interest can be cloned. A single transfection procedure of the two or three

plasmids together resulted in the formation of a recombinant chimaeric adenovirus. Although successful introduction of changes in the adenovirus serotype 5 fiber and penton-base have been reported, the complex structure of knob and the limited knowledge of the precise amino acids interacting with CAR render such targeting approaches laborious and difficult. To overcome the limitations described above we used pre-existing adenovirus fibers to maximise the chance of obtaining recombinant adenovirus which can normally assemble in the nucleus of a producer cell and which can be produced on pre-existing packaging cells. By generating a chimaeric adenovirus serotype 5 based fiber library containing fiber proteins of all other human adenovirus serotypes, we have developed a technology which enables rapid screening for a recombinant adenoviral vector with preferred infection characteristics.

[0042] In one aspect this invention describes chimaeric adenoviruses and methods to generate these viruses that have an tropism different from that of adenovirus serotype 5. This chimaeric adenovirus serotype 5 is able to infect cell types which do not express the CAR protein much more efficiently both *in vitro* and *in vivo* than the adenovirus serotype 5. Such cells include but are not limited to endothelial cells, smooth muscle cells, dendritic cells, neuronal cells, glial cells, synovical cells, primary fibroblasts, cells from the amniotic fluid, hemopoietic stem cells, and monocytic/macrophage cells etc.

[0043] In another aspect the invention describes the construction and use of plasmids consisting of distinct parts of adenovirus serotype 5 in which the gene encoding for fiber protein has been replaced with DNA derived from alternative human or animal serotypes. This set of constructs, in total encompassing the complete adenovirus genome, allows for the construction of unique chimaeric adenoviruses customised for transduction of particular cell types or organ(s). [0044] In all aspects of the invention the chimaeric adenoviruses may, or may not, contain deletions in the E1 region and insertions of heterologous genes linked either or not to a promoter. Furthermore, chimaeric adenoviruses may, or may not, contain deletions in the E3 region and insertions of heterologous genes linked to a promoter. Furthermore, chimaeric adenoviruses may, or may not, contain deletions in the E2 and/ or E4 region and insertions of heterologous genes linked to a promoter. In the latter case E2 and/ or E4 complementing cell lines are required to generated recombinant adenoviruses.

Example 1: Generation of adenovirus serotype 5 genomic plasmid clones

[0045] The complete genome of adenovirus serotype 5 has been cloned into various plasmids or cosmids to allow easy modification of parts of the adenovirus serotype 5 genome, while still retaining the capability to produce recombinant virus. For this purpose the following plasmids were generated:

1. pBr/Ad.Bam-rITR (ECACC deposit P97082122)

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[0046] In order to facilitate blunt end cloning of the ITR sequences, wild-type human adenovirus type 5 (Ad5) DNA was treated with Klenow enzyme in the presence of excess dNTPs. After inactivation of the Klenow enzyme and purification by phenol/chloroform extraction followed by ethanol precipitation, the DNA was digested with BamHI. This DNA preparation was used without further purification in a ligation reaction with pBr322 derived vector DNA prepared as follows: pBr322 DNA was digested with EcoRV and BamHI, dephosphorylated by treatment with TSAP enzyme (Life Technologies) and purified on LMP agarose gel (SeaPlaque GTG). After transformation into competent *E.coli* DH5a (Life Techn.) and analysis of ampicilline resistant colonies, one clone was selected that showed a digestion pattern as expected for an insert extending from the BamHI site in Ad5 to the right ITR.

Sequence analysis of the cloning border at the right ITR revealed that the most 3' G residue of the ITR was missing, the remainder of the ITR was found to be correct. Said missing G residue is complemented by the other ITR during replication.

2. pBr/Ad.Sal-rITR (ECACC deposit P97082119)

[0047] pBr/Ad.Bam-rITR was digested with BamHI and Sall. The vector fragment including the adenovirus insert was isolated in LMP agarose (SeaPlaque GTG) and ligated to a 4.8 kb Sall-BamHI fragment obtained from wt Ad5 DNA and purified with the Geneclean II kit (Bio 101, Inc.). One clone was chosen and the integrity of the Ad5 sequences was determined by restriction enzyme analysis. Clone pBr/Ad.Sal-rITR contains adeno type 5 sequences from the Sall site at bp 16746 up to and including the rITR (missing the most 3' G residue).

3. pBr/Ad.Cla-Bam (ECACC deposit P97082117)

[0048] wt Adeno type 5 DNA was digested with Clal and BamHI, and the 20.6 kb fragment was isolated from gel by electro-elution. pBr322 was digested with the same enzymes and purified from agarose gel by Geneclean. Both fragments were ligated and transformed into competent DH5a. The resulting clone pBr/Ad.Cla-Bam was analysed by re-

striction enzyme digestion and shown to contain an insert with adenovirus sequences from bp 919 to 21566.

4. pBr/Ad.AfIII-Bam (ECACC deposit P97082114)

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[0049] Clone pBr/Ad.Cla-Bam was linearised with EcoRI (in pBr322) and partially digested with AfIII. After heat inactivation of AfIII for 20' at 65°C the fragment ends were filled in with Klenow enzyme. The DNA was then ligated to a
blunt double stranded oligo linker containing a PacI site (5'-AATTGTCTTAATTAACCGCTTAA-3'). This linker was made
by annealing the following two oligonucleotides: 5'-AATTGTCTTAATTAACCGC-3' and 5'-AATTGCGGTTAATTAAGAC3', followed by blunting with Klenow enzyme. After precipitation of the ligated DNA to change buffer, the ligations were
digested with an excess PacI enzyme to remove concatameres of the oligo. The 22016 bp partial fragment containing
Ad5 sequences from bp 3534 up to 21566 and the vector sequences, was isolated in LMP agarose (SeaPlaque GTG),
religated and transformed into competent DH5a. One clone that was found to contain the PacI site and that had retained
the large adeno fragment was selected and sequenced at the 5' end to verify correct insertion of the PacI linker in the
(lost) AfIII site.

5. pBr/Ad.Bam-rlTRpac#2 (ECACC deposit P97082120) and pBr/Ad.Sam-rlTR#8 (ECACC deposit P97082121)

[0050] To allow insertion of a Pacl site near the ITR of Ad5 in clone pBr/Ad.Bam-rITR about 190 nucleotides were removed between the Clal site in the pBr322 backbone and the start of the ITR sequences. This was done as follows: pBr/Ad.Bam-rITR was digested with Clal and treated with nuclease Bal31 for varying lengths of time (2', 5', 10' and 15'). The extent of nucleotide removal was followed by separate reactions on pBr322 DNA (also digested at the Clal site), using identical buffers and conditions. Bal31 enzyme was inactivated by incubation at 75°C for 10 minutes, the DNA was precipitated and resuspended in a smaller volume of TE buffer. To ensure blunt ends, DNAs were further treated with T4 DNA polymerase in the presence of excess dNTPs. After digestion of the (control) pBr322 DNA with Sall, satisfactory degradation (~150 bp) was observed in the samples treated for 10' or 15'. The 10' or 15' treated pBr/Ad.Bam-rITR samples were then ligated to the above described blunted Pacl linkers (See pBr/Ad.AfIII-Bam). Ligations were purified by precipitation, digested with excess Pacl and separated from the linkers on an LMP agarose gel. After religation, DNAs were transformed into competent DH5a and colonies analysed. Ten clones were selected that showed a deletion of approximately the desired length and these were further analysed by T-track sequencing (T7 sequencing kit, Pharmacia Biotech). Two clones were found with the Pacl linker inserted just downstream of the rITR. After digestion with Pacl, clone #2 has 28 bp and clone #8 has 27 bp attached to the ITR.

pWE/Ad.Afill-rITR (ECACC deposit P97082116)

[0051] Cosmid vector pWE15 (Clontech) was used to clone larger Ad5 inserts. First, a linker containing a unique Pacl site was inserted in the EcoRI sites of pWE15 creating pWE.pac. To this end, the double stranded Pacl oligo as described for pBr/Ad.Afill-BamHI was used but now with its EcoRI protruding ends. The following fragments were then isolated by electro-elution from agarose gel: pWE.pac digested with Pacl, pBr/Afill-Bam digested with Pacl and BamHI and pBr/Ad.Bam-rITR#2 digested with BamHI and Pacl. These fragments were ligated together and packaged using 1 phage packaging extracts (Stratagene) according to the manufacturers protocol. After infection into host bacteria, colonies were grown on plates and analysed for presence of the complete insert. pWE/Ad.Afill-rITR contains all adenovirus type 5 sequences from bp 3534 (Afill site) up to and including the right ITR (missing the most 3' G residue).

pBr/Ad.IITR-Sal(9.4) (ECACC deposit P97082115)

[0052] Adeno 5 wt DNA was treated with Klenow enzyme in the presence of excess dNTPs and subsequently digested with Sall. Two of the resulting fragments, designated left ITR-Sal(9.4) and Sal(16.7)-right ITR, respectively, were isolated in LMP agarose (Seaplaque GTG). pBr322 DNA was digested with EcoRV and Sall and treated with phosphatase (Life Technologies). The vector fragment was isolated using the Geneclean method (BIO 101, Inc.) and ligated to the Ad5 Sall fragments. Only the ligation with the 9.4 kb fragment gave colonies with an insert. After analysis and sequencing of the cloning border a clone was chosen that contained the full ITR sequence and extended to the Sall site at bp 9462.

pBr/Ad.IITR-Sal(16.7) (ECACC deposit P97082118)

[0053] pBr/Ad.IITR-Sal(9.4) is digested with Sall and dephosphorylated (TSAP, Life Technologies). To extend this clone up to the third Sall site in Ad5, pBr/Ad.Cla-Bam was linearised with BamHI and partially digested with Sall. A 7.3 kb Sall fragment containing adenovirus sequences from 9462-16746 was isolated in LMP agarose gel and ligated to

the Sall-digested pBr/Ad.IITR-Sal (9.4) vector fragment.

pWE/Ad.AfIII-EcoRi

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[0054] pWE.pac was digested with Clal and 5' protruding ends were filled using Klenow enzyme. The DNA was then digested with PacI and isolated from agarose gel. pWE/AfIII-rITR was digested with EcoRI and after treatment with Klenow enzyme digested with PacI. The large 24 kb fragment containing the adenoviral sequences was isolated from agarose gel and ligated to the Clal-digested and blunted pWE.pac vector using the Ligation Express™ kit from Clontech. After transformation of Ultracompetent XL10-Gold cells from Stratagene, clones were identified that contained the expected insert. pWE/AfIII-EcoRI contains Ad5 sequences from bp 3534-27336.

Construction of new adapter plasmids

[0055] The absence of sequence overlap between the recombinant adenovirus and E1 sequences in the packaging cell line is essential for safe, RCA-free generation and propagation of new recombinant viruses. The adapter plasmid pMLPI.TK (figure. 1) is an example of an adapter plasmid designed for use according to the invention in combination with the improved packaging cell lines of the invention. This plasmid was used as the starting material to make a new vector in which nucleic acid molecules comprising specific promoter and gene sequences can be easily exchanged. [0056] First, a PCR fragment was generated from pZip∆Mo+PyF101(N) template DNA (described in PCT/ NL96/00195) with the following primers: LTR-1: 5'-CTG TAC GTA CCA GTG CAC TGG CCT AGG CAT GGA AAA ATA CAT AAC TG-3' and LTR-2: 5'-GCG GAT CCT TCG AAC CAT GGT AAG CTT GGT ACC GCT AGC GTT AAC CGG GCG ACT CAG TCA ATC G-3'. Pwo DNA polymerase (Boehringer Mannheim) was used according to manufacturers protocol with the following temperature cycles: once 5' at 95°C; 3' at 55°C; and 1' at 72°C, and 30 cycles of 1' at 95°C, 1' at 60°C, 1' at 72°C, followed by once 10' at 72°C. The PCR product was then digested with BamHI and ligated into pMLP10 (Levrero et al., 1991) vector digested with Pvull and BamHI, thereby generating vector pLTR10. This vector contains adenoviral sequences from bp 1 up to bp 454 followed by a promoter consisting of a part of the Mo-MuLV LTR having its wild-type enhancer sequences replaced by the enhancer from a mutant polyoma virus (PyF101). The promoter fragment was designated L420. Next, the coding region of the murine HSA gene was inserted. pLTR10 was digested with BstBI followed by Klenow treatment and digestion with Ncol. The HSA gene was obtained by PCR amplification on pUC18-HSA (Kay et al., 1990) using the following primers: HSA1, 5'-GCG CCA CCA TGG GCA GAG CGA TGG TGG C-3' and HSA2, 5'-GTT AGA TCT AAG CTT GTC GAC ATC GAT CTA ACA GTA GAG ATG TAG AA-3'. The 269 bp amplified fragment was subcloned in a shuttle vector using the Ncol and BgIII sites. Sequencing confirmed incorporation of the correct coding sequence of the HSA gene, but with an extra TAG insertion directly following the TAG stop codon. The coding region of the HSA gene, including the TAG duplication was then excised as a Ncol (sticky)-Sall (blunt) fragment and cloned into the 3.5 kb Ncol(sticky)/BstBl(blunt) fragment from pLTR10, resulting in pLTR-HSA10.

Finally, pLTR-HSA10 was digested with EcoRI and BamHI after which the fragment containing the left ITR, packaging signal, L420 promoter and HSA gene was inserted into vector pMLPI.TK digested with the same enzymes and thereby replacing the promoter and gene sequences. This resulted in the new adapter plasmid pAd/L420-HSA (figure. 2) that contains convenient recognition sites for various restriction enzymes around the promoter and gene sequences. SnaBI and AvrII can be combined with HpaI, NheI, KpnI, HindIII to exchange promoter sequences, while the latter sites can be combined with the ClaI or BamHI sites 3' from HSA coding region to replace genes in this construct.

Another adapter plasmid that was designed to allow easy exchange of nucleic acid molecules was made by replacing the promoter, gene and poly A sequences in pAd/L420-HSA with the CMV promoter, a multiple cloning site, an intron and a poly-A signal. For this purpose, pAd/L420-HSA was digested with AvrII and BgIII followed by treatment with Klenow to obtain blunt ends. The 5.1 kb fragment with pBr322 vector and adenoviral sequences was isolated and ligated to a blunt 1570 bp fragment from pcDNA1/amp (Invitrogen) obtained by digestion with Hhal and AvrII followed by treatment with T4 DNA polymerase. This adapter plasmid was named pCLIP (figure. 3).

50 Generation of recombinant adenoviruses

[0057] To generate E1 deleted recombinant adenoviruses with the new plasmid-based system, the following constructs are prepared:

- a) An adapter construct containing the expression cassette with the gene of interest linearised with a restriction enzyme that cuts at the 3' side of the overlapping adenoviral genome fragment, preferably not containing any pBr322 vector sequences, and
 - b) A complementing adenoviral genome construct pWE/Ad.AfIII-rITR digested with Pacl.

These two DNA molecules are further purified by phenol/ chloroform extraction and EtOH precipitation. Co-transfection of these plasmids into an adenovirus packaging cell line, preferably a cell line according to the invention, generates recombinant replication deficient adenoviruses by a one-step homologous recombination between the adapter and the complementing construct (figure. 4).

Alternatively, in stead of pWE/Ad.AfIII-rITR other fragments can be used, e.g., pBr/Ad.Cla-Bam digested with EcoRI and BamHI or pBr/Ad.AfIII-BamHI digested with Pacl and BamHI can be combined with pBr/Ad.Sal-rITR digested with Sall. In this case, three plasmids are combined and two homologous recombinations are needed to obtain a recombinant adenovirus (figure. 5). It is to be understood that those skilled in the art may use other combinations of adapter and complementing plasmids without departing from the present invention. A general protocol as outlined below and meant as a nonlimiting example of the present invention has been performed to produce several recombinant adenoviruses using various adapter plasmids and the Ad.AfIII-rITR fragment. Adenovirus packaging cells (PER.C6) were seeded in ~25 cm2 flasks and the next day when they were at ~80% confluency, transfected with a mixture of DNA and lipofectamine agent (Life Techn.) as described by the manufacturer. Routinely, 40 µl lipofectamine, 4 µg adapter plasmid and 4 µg of the complementing adenovirus genome fragment AfIII- rITR (or 2 µg of all three plasmids for the double homologous recombination) are used. Under these conditions transient transfection efficiencies of ~50% (48 hrs post transfection) are obtained as determined with control transfections using a pAd/CMV-LacZ adapter. Two days later, cells are passaged to ~ 80 cm² flasks and further cultured. Approximately five (for the single homologous recombination) to eleven days (for the double homologous recombination) later a cytopathogenic effect (CPE) is seen, indicating that functional adenovirus has formed. Cells and medium are harvested upon full CPE and recombinant virus is released by freeze-thawing. An extra amplification step in an 80 cm2 flask is routinely performed to increase the yield since at the initial stage the titers are found to be variable despite the occurrence of full CPE. After amplification, viruses are harvested and plaque purified on PER.C6 cells. Individual plaques are tested for viruses with active transgenes.

[0058] Besides replacements in the E1 region it is possible to delete or replace (part of) the E3 region in the adenovirus because E3 functions are not necessary for the replication, packaging and infection of the (recombinant) virus. This creates the opportunity to use a larger insert or to insert more than one gene without exceeding the maximum package size (approximately 105% of wt genome length). This can be done, e.g., by deleting part of the E3 region in the pBr/Ad.Bam-rITR clone by digestion with Xbal and religation. This removes Ad5 wt sequences 28592-30470 including all known E3 coding regions. Another example is the precise replacement of the coding region of gpl9K in the E3 region with a polylinker allowing insertion of new sequences. This, 1) leaves all other coding regions intact and 2) obviates the need for a heterologous promoter since the transgene is driven by the E3 promoter and pA sequences, leaving more space for coding sequences.

To this end, the 2.7 kb EcoRI fragment from wt Ad5 containing the 5' part of the E3 region was cloned into the EcoRI site of pBluescript (KS-) (Stratagene). Next, the HindIII site in the polylinker was removed by digestion with EcoRV and HinclI and subsequent religation. The resulting clone pBS.Eco-Eco/ad5DHIII was used to delete the gp19K coding region. Primers 1 (5'-GGG TAT TAG GCC AA AGG CGC A-3') and 2 (5'-GAT CCC ATG GAA GCT TGG GTG GCG ACC CCA GCG-3") were used to amplify a sequence from pBS.Eco-Eco/Ad5DHIII corresponding to sequences 28511 to 28734 in wt Ad5 DNA. Primers 3 (5'-GAT CCC ATG GGG ATC CTT TAC TAA GTT ACA AAG CTA-3') and 4 (5'-GTC GCT GTA GTT GGA CTG G-3') were used on the same DNA to amplify Ad5 sequences from 29217 to 29476. The two resulting PCR fragments were ligated together by virtue of the new introduced Ncol site and subsequently digested with Xbal and Munl. This fragment was then ligated into the pBS.Eco-Eco/ad5 ΔHIII vector that was digested with Xbal (partially) and MunI generating pBS.Eco-Eco/ad5∆HIII.∆gp19K. To allow insertion of foreign genes into the HindIII and BamHI site, an Xbal deletion was made in pBS.Eco-Eco/ad5∆HIII.∆gp19K to remove the BamHI site in the Bluescript polylinker. The resulting plasmid pBS.Eco-Eco/ad5\(\Delta\)HII\(\Delta\)p19K\(\Delta\)Xbal, contains unique HindIII and BamHI sites corresponding to sequences 28733 (HindIII) and 29218 (BamHI) in Ad5. After introduction of a foreign gene into these sites, either the deleted Xbal fragment is re-introduced, or the insert is recloned into pBS.Eco-Eco/ad5ΔHIII.Δgp19K using HindIII and for example Munl. Using this procedure, we have generated plasmids expressing HSV-TK, hIL-1a, rat IL-3, luciferase or LacZ. The unique Srfl and NotI sites in the pBS:Eco-Eco/ad5ΔHIII.Δgp19K plasmid (with or without inserted gene of interest) are used to transfer the region comprising the gene of interest into the corresponding region of pBr/Ad.Bam-rITR, yielding construct pBr/Ad.Bam-rITRAgp19K (with or without inserted gene of interest). This construct is used as described supra to produce recombinant adenoviruses. In the viral context, expression of inserted genes is driven by the adenovirus E3 promoter.

[0059] Recombinant viruses that are both E1 and E3 deleted are generated by a double homologous recombination procedure as described above for E1-replacement vectors using a plasmid-based system consisting of:

- a) an adapter plasmid for E1 replacement according to the invention, with or without insertion of a first gene of interest,
- b) the pWE/Ad.AfIII-EcoRI fragment, and

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c) the pBr/Ad.Bam-rITRAgp19K plasmid with or without insertion of a second gene of interest.

In addition to manipulations in the E3 region, changes of (parts of) the E4 region can be accomplished easily in pBr/Ad.Bam-rITR. Generation and propagation of such a virus, however, in some cases demands complementation in trans.

Example 2: Generation of adenovirus serotype 5 based viruses with chimaeric fiber proteins

[0060] The method described *infra* to generate recombinant adenoviruses by co-transfection of two, or more separate cloned adenovirus sequences. One of these cloned adenovirus sequences was modified such that the adenovirus serotype 5 fiber DNA was deleted and substituted for unique restriction sites thereby generating itemplate clonesi which allow for the easy introduction of DNA sequences encoding for fiber protein derived from other adenovirus serotypes.

Generation of adenovirus template clones lacking DNA encoding for fiber

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[0061] The fiber coding sequence of adenovirus serotype 5 is located between nucleotides 31042 and 32787. To remove the adenovirus serotype 5 DNA encoding fiber we started with construct pBr/Ad.Bam-rITR. First a Ndel site was removed from this construct. For this purpose, pBr322 plasmid DNA was digested with Ndel after which protruding ends were filled using Klenow enzyme. This pBr322 plasmid was then re-ligated, digested with Ndel and transformed into *E.coli* DH5α. The obtained pBr/ΔNdel plasmid was digested with Scal and Sall and the resulting 3198 bp vector fragment was ligated to the 15349 bp Scal-Sall fragment derived from pBr/Ad.BamrITR, resulting in plasmid pBr/Ad. Bam-rITRΔNdel which hence contained a unique Ndel site. Next a PCR was performed with oligonucleotides NY-up: 5'- CGA CAT ATG TAG ATG CAT TAG TTT GTG TTA TGT TTC AAC GTG-3'

And NY-down:5'-GGA GAC CAC TGC CAT GTT-3'(figure 6). During amplification, both a Ndel (bold face) and a Nsil restriction site (underlined) were introduced to facilitate cloning of the amplified fiber DNAs. Amplification consisted of 25 cycles of each 45 sec. at 94°C, 1 min. at 60°C, and 45 sec. at 72°C. The PCR reaction contained 25 pmol of oligonucleotides NY-up or NY-down, 2mM dNTP, PCR buffer with 1.5 mM MgCl2, and 1 unit of Elongase heat stable polymerase (Gibco, The Netherlands). One-tenth of the PCR product was run on an agarose gel which demonstrated that the expected DNA fragment of ± 2200 bp was amplified. This PCR fragment was subsequently purified using Geneclean kit system (Bio101 Inc.). Then, both the construct pBr/Ad.Bam-rITRANdel as well as the PCR product were digested with restriction enzymes Ndel and Sbfl. The PCR fragment was subsequently cloned using T4 ligase enzyme into the Ndel and Sbfl digested pBr/Ad.Bam-rlTR∆Ndel, generating pBr/Ad.BamR∆Fib. This plasmid allows insertion of any PCR amplified fiber sequence through the unique Ndel and Nsil sites that are inserted in place of the removed fiber sequence. Viruses can be generated by a double homologous recombination in packaging cells described infra using an adapter plasmid, construct pBr/Ad.AflII-EcoRI digested with PacI and EcoRI and a pBr/Ad.BamR∆Fib construct in which heterologous fiber sequences have been inserted. To increase the efficiency of virus generation, the construct pBr/Ad.BamR∆Fib was modified to generate a PacI site flanking the right ITR. Hereto, pBr/Ad.BamR∆Fib was digested with AvrII and the 5 kb adeno fragment was isolated and introduced into the vector pBr/Ad.Bam-rITR. pac#8 replacing the corresponding AvrII fragment. The resulting construct was named pBr/Ad.BamR∆Fib.pac. Once a heterologous fiber sequence is introduced in pBr/Ad.BamRΔFib.pac, the fiber modified right hand adenovirus clone may be introduced into a large cosmid clone as described for pWE/Ad.AfIII-rITR in example 1. Such a large cosmid clone allows generation of adenovirus by only one homologous recombination making the process extremely efficient.

Amplification of fiber sequences from adenovirus serotypes

[0062] To enable amplification of the DNAs encoding fiber protein derived from alternative serotypes degenerate oligonucleotides were synthesised. For this purpose, first known DNA sequences encoding for fiber protein of alternative serotypes were aligned to identify conserved regions in both the tail-region as well as the knob-region of the fiber protein. From the alignment, which contained the nucleotide sequence of 19 different serotypes representing all 6 subgroups, (degenerate) oligonucleotides were synthesised (see table 2). Also shown in table 3 is the combination of oligonucleotides used to amplify the DNA encoding fiber protein of a specific serotype. The amplification reaction (50 µl) contained 2 mM dNTPs, 25 pmol of each oligonucleotide, standard 1x PCR buffer, 1,5 mM MgCl₂, and 1 Unit Pwo heat stable polymerase (Boehringer) per reaction. The cycler program contained 20 cycles, each consisting of 30 sec. 94°C, 60 sec. 60-64°C, and 120 sec. At 72°C. One-tenth of the PCR product was run on an agarose gel which demonstrated that a DNA fragment was amplified. Of each different template, two independent PCR reactions were performed after which the independent PCR fragments obtained were sequenced to determine the nucleotide sequence. From 11 different serotypes, the nucleotide sequence could be compared to sequences present in Genbank. Of all other serotypes, the DNA encoding fiber protein was previously unknown and was therefore aligned with known se-

quences from other subgroup members to determine homology i.e. sequence divergence. Of the 51 human serotypes known to date, all fiber sequences, except for serotypes 1, 6, and 26, have been amplified and sequenced. The protein sequences of the fiber from different adenovirus serotypes is given in figure 7.

Generation of fiber chimaeric adenoviral DNA constructs

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[0063] All amplified fiber DNAs as well as the vector (pBr/Ad.BamRA Fib) were digested with Ndel and Nsil. The digested DNAs was subsequently run on a agarose gel after which the fragments were isolated from the gel and purified using the Geneclean kit (Bio101 Inc). The PCR fragments were then cloned into the Ndel and Nsil sites of pBr/Ad-BamRAFib, thus generating pBr/AdBamRFibXX (where XX stands for the serotype number of which the fiber DNA was isolated). So far the fiber sequence of serotypes 5/ 7/ 8/ 9/ 10/ 11/ 12/ 13/ 14/ 16/ 17/ 19/ 21/ 24/ 27/ 28/ 29/ 30/ 32/ 33/ 34/ 35/ 36/ 37/ 38/ 40-S/ 40-L/ 41-S/ 42/45/ 47/ 49/ 51 have been cloned into pBr/AdBamRFibXX. From pBr/AdBamRFibXX (where XX is 5/ 8/ 9/ 10/ 11/ 13/ 16/ 17/ 24/ 27/ 30/ 32/ 33/ 34/ 35/ 38/ 40-S/ 40-L/ 45/ 47/ 49/ 51) an 6 kb AvrII fragment encompassing the fiber sequence was isolated via gelelectrophoresis and Geneclean. This AvrII fragment was subsequently cloned in plasmid pBr/Ad.Bam-rITR.pac (see example 1) which was digested to completion with AvrII and dephosphorylated as described previously, leading to the generation of the plasmid pBr/Ad.Bam-rITR.pac.fibXX. This plasmid was subsequently used to generate a cosmid clone with a modified fiber using the constructs pWE.pac, pBr/AfIII-Bam and pBr/Ad.Bam-rITR.pac.fibXX. This cosmid cloning resulted in the formation of construct pWE/Ad.AfIII-rITR/FibXX (where XX stands for the serotype number of which the fiber DNA was isolated).

Generation of pAd5/L420.HSA, pAd5/Clip and pAd5/Clipsal

[0064] pMLPI.TK was used to make a new vector in which nucleic acid molecules comprising specific promoter and gene sequences can be easily exchanged.

First, a PCR fragment was generated from pZipΔMo+PyF101(N-) template DNA (described in PCT/NL96/00195) with the following primers: LTR-1: 5'-CTG TAC GTA CCA GTG CAC TGG CCT AGG CAT GGA AAA ATA CAT AAC TG-3' and LTR-2: 5'-GCG GAT CCT TCG AAC CAT GGT AAG CTT GGT ACC GCT AGC GTT AAC CGG GCG ACT CAG TCA ATC G-3'. Pwo DNA polymerase (Boehringer Mannheim) was used according to manufacturers protocol with the following temperature cycles: once 5' at 95°C; 3' at 55°C; and 1' at 72°C, and 30 cycles of 1' at 95°C, 1' at 60°C, 1' at 72°C, followed by once 10' at 72°C. The PCR product was then digested with BamHI and ligated into pMLP10 (Levrero et al., 1991; Gene 101, 195-202) digested with Pvull and BamHI, thereby generating vector pLTR10. This vector contains adenoviral sequences from bp 1 up to bp 454 followed by a promoter consisting of a part of the Mo-MuLV LTR having its wild-type enhancer sequences replaced by the enhancer from a mutant polyoma virus (PyF101). The promoter fragment was designated L420. Sequencing confirmed correct amplification of the LTR fragment however the most 5' bases in the PCR fragment were missing so that the Pvull site was not restored. Next, the coding region of the murine HSA gene was inserted. pLTR10 was digested with BstBI followed by Klenow treatment and digestion with Ncol. The HSA gene was obtained by PCR amplification on pUC18-HSA (Kay et al., 1990; J. Immunol. 145, 1952-1959) using the following primers: HSA1, 5'-GCG CCA CCA TGG GCA GAG CGA TGG TGG C-3' and HSA2, 5'-GTT AGA TCT AAG CTT GTC GAC ATC GAT CTA CTA ACA GTA GAG ATG TAG AA-3'. The 269 bp amplified fragment was subcloned in a shuttle vector using the Ncol and BgIII sites. Sequencing confirmed incorporation of the correct coding sequence of the HSA gene, but with an extra TAG insertion directly following the TAG stop codon. The coding region of the HSA gene, including the TAG duplication was then excised as a Ncol(sticky)-Sall(blunt) fragment and cloned into the 3.5 kb Ncol(sticky)/BstBI(blunt) fragment from pLTR10, resulting in pLTR-HSA10.

Finally, pLTR-HSA10 was digested with EcoRI and BamHI after which the fragment containing the left ITR, packaging signal, L420 promoter and HSA gene was inserted into vector pMLPI.TK digested with the same enzymes and thereby replacing the promoter and gene sequences. This resulted in the new adapter plasmid pAd5/L420-HSA that contains convenient recognition sites for various restriction enzymes around the promoter and gene sequences. SnaBI and AvrII can be combined with HpaI, NheI, KpnI, HindIII to exchange promoter sequences, while the latter sites can be combined with the Clal or BamHI sites 3' from HSA coding region to replace genes in this construct.

[0065] Another adapter plasmid that was designed to allow easy exchange of nucleic acid molecules was made by replacing the promoter, gene and polyA sequences in pAd5/L420-HSA with the CMV promoter, a multiple cloning site, an intron and a polyA signal. For this purpose, pAd5/L420-HSA was digested with AvrII and BgIII followed by treatment with Klenow to obtain blunt ends. The 5.1 kb fragment with pBr322 vector and adenoviral sequences was isolated and ligated to a blunt 1570 bp fragment from pcDNA1/amp (Invitrogen) obtained by digestion with Hhal and AvrII followed by treatment with T4 DNA polymerase. This adapter plasmid was named pAd5/Clip. To enable removal of vector sequences from the adenoviral fragment pAd5/Clip was partially digested with EcoRI and the linear fragment was isolated. An oligo of the sequence 5' TTAAGTCGAC-3' was annealed to itself resulting in a linker with a SaII site and EcoRI overhang. The linker was ligated to the partially digested pAd5/Clip vector and clones were selected that had the linker

inserted in the EcoRI site 23 bp upstream of the left adenovirus ITR in pAd5/Clip resulting in pAd5/Clipsal.

Generation of pAd5ClipLacZ, PAd5Clip.Luc, pAd5Clip.TK and pAd5Clipsal.Luc

[0066] The adapter plasmid pAd5/Clip.LacZ was generated as follows: The E.coli LacZ gene was amplified from the plasmid pMLP.nlsLacZ (EP 95-202 213) by PCR with the primers 5'GGGGTGGCCAGGGTACCTCTAGGCTTTTGCAA and

5'GGGGGGATCCATAAACAAGTTCAGAATCC. The PCR reaction was performed Ex Taq (Takara) according to the suppliers protocol at the following amplification program: 5 minutes 94°C, 1 cycle; 45 seconds 94°C and 30 seconds 60°C and 2 minutes 72°C, 5 cycles; 45 seconds 94°C and 30 seconds 65°C and 2 minutes 72°C, 25 cycles; 10 minutes 72; 45 seconds 94°C and 30 seconds 60°C and 2 minutes 72°C, 5 cycles, I cycle. The PCR product was subsequently digested with Kpnl and BamHl and the digested DNA fragment was ligated into Kpnl/BamHl digested pcDNA3 (Invitrogen), giving rise to pcDNA3.nlsLacZ. Next, the plasmid pAd5/Clip was digested with Spel. The large fragment containing part of the 5' part CMV promoter and the adenoviral sequences was isolated. The plasmid pcDNA3.nlsLacZ

was digested with Spel and the fragment containing the 3'part of the CMV promoter and the lacZ gene was isolated. Subsequently, the fragments were ligated, giving rise to pAd/Clip.LacZ. The reconstitution of the CMV promoter was confirmed by restriction digestion.

[0067] The adapter plasmid pAd5/Clip.Luc was generated as follows: The plasmid pCMV.Luc (EP 95-202 213) was digested with HindIII and BamHI. The DNA fragment containing the luciferase gene was isolated. The adapter plasmid pAd5/Clip was digested with HindIII and BamHI, and the large fragment was isolated. Next, the isolated DNA fragments were ligated, giving rise to pAd5/Clip.Luc. The adapter pClipsal.Luc was generated in the same way but using the adapter pClipsal digested with HIII and BamHI as vector fragment. Likewise, the TK containing HIII-BamHI fragment from pCMV.TK (EP 95-202 213) was inserted in pClipsal to generate pAd5/Clip.TK. The presence of the Sall site just upstream of the left ITR enables liberation of vector sequences from the adeno insert. Removal of these vector sequences enhances frequency of vector generation during homologous recombination in PER.C6.

Generation of recombinant adenovirus chimaeric for fiber protein

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[0068] To generate recombinant Ad 5 virus carrying the fiber of serotype 12, 16, 28, 40-L, 51, and 5, three constructs, pCLIP.Luc, pWE/AdAfili-Eco and pBr/AdBamrITR.pac/fibXX (XX = 12, 16, 28, 40-L, 51, and 5) were transfected into adenovirus producer cells. To generate recombinant Ad 5 virus carrying the fiber of 5/ 7/ 8/ 9/ 10/ 11/ 12/ 13/ 14/ 16/ 17/ 19/ 21/ 24/ 27/ 28/ 29/ 30/ 32/ 33/ 34/ 35/ 36/ 37/ 38/ 40-S/ 40-L/ 41-S/ 42/45/ 47/ 49/ 51, two constructs pCLIP. Luc and pWE/Ad.Afili-rITR/FibXX were transfected into adenovirus producer cells.

For transfection, 2 µg of pCLIP.Luc, and 4 µg of both pWE/AdAfilI-Eco and pBr/AdBamrITR.pac/fibXX (or in case of cosmids: 4 µg of pCLIP.Luc plus 4 µg of pWE/Ad.AfilI-rITR/FibXX) were diluted in serum free DMEM to 100 µl total volume. To this DNA suspension 100 µl 1x diluted lipofectamine (Gibco) was added. After 30 minutes at room temperature the DNA-lipofectamine complex solution was added to 2.5 ml of serum-free DMEM which was subsequently added to a T25 cm² tissue culture flask. This flask contained 2x106 PER.C6 cells that were seeded 24-hours prior to transfection. Two hours later, the DNA-lipofectamine complex containing medium was diluted once by the addition of 2.5 ml DMEM supplemented with 20% foetal calf serum. Again 24 hours later the medium was replaced by fresh DMEM supplemented with 10% foetal calf serum. Cells were cultured for 6-8 days, subsequently harvested, and freeze/thawed 3 times. Cellular debris was removed by centrifugation for 5 minutes at 3000 rpm room temperature. Of the supernatant (12.5 ml) 3-5 ml was used to infect again infect PER.C6 cells (T80 cm² tissue culture flasks). This re-infection results in full cytopathogenic effect (CPE) after 5-6 days after which the adenovirus is harvested as described above.

Example 3: Production, purification, and titration of fiber chimaeric adenoviruses

[0069] Of the supernatant obtained from transfected PER.C6 cells typically 10 ml was used to inoculate a 1 litre fermentor which contained 1 - 1.5 x 10⁶ cells/ ml PER.C6 that were specifically adapted to grow in suspension. Three days after inoculation, the cells were harvested and pelleted by centrifuging for 10 min at 1750 rpm at room temperature. The chimaeric adenoviruses present in the pelleted cells were subsequently extracted and purified using the following downstream processing protocol. The pellet was dissolved in 50 ml 10 mM NaPO₄⁻ and frozen at -20°C. After thawing at 37°C, 5.6 ml deoxycholate (5% w/v) was added after which the solution was homogenated. The solution was subsequently incubated for 15 minutes at 37°C to completely crack the cells. After homogenising the solution, 1875 µl (1M) MgCl₂⁻ was added and 5 ml 100% glycerol. After the addition of 375 µl DNase (10 mg/ ml) the solution was incubated for 30 minutes at 37°C. Cell debris was removed by centrifugation at 1880xg for 30 minutes at room temperature without the brake on. The supernatant was subsequently purified from proteins by loading on 10 ml of freon. Upon centrifugation for 15 minutes at 2000 rpm without brake at room temperature three bands are visible of which

the upper band represents the adenovirus. This band was isolated by pipetting after which it was loaded on a Tris/HCl (1M) buffered caesiumchloride blockgradient (range: 1.2 to 1.4 gr./ml). Upon centrifugation at 21000 rpm for 2.5 hours at 10°C the virus was purified from remaining protein and cell debris since the virus, in contrast to the other components, does not migrate into the 1.4 gr./ ml caesiumchloride solution. The virus band is isolated after which a second purification using a Tris/ HCl (1M) buffered continues gradient of 1.33 gr./ml of caesiumchloride is performed. After virus loading on top of this gradient the virus is centrifuged for 17 hours at 55000 rpm at 10°C. Subsequently the virus band is isolated and after the addition of 30 μ l of sucrose (50 w/v) excess caesiumchloride is removed by three rounds of dialysis, each round comprising of 1 hour. For dialysis the virus is transferred to dialysis slides (Slide-a-lizer, cut off 10000 kDa, Pierce, USA). The buffers used for dialysis are PBS which are supplemented with an increasing concentration of sucrose (round 1 to 3: 30 ml, 60 ml, and 150 ml sucrose (50% w/v)/ 1.5 litre PBS, all supplemented with 7.5 ml 2% (w/v) CaMgCl₂). After dialysis, the virus is removed from the slide-a-lizer after which it is aliquoted in portions of 25 and 100 μ l upon which the virus is stored at -85°C.

[0070] To determine the number of virus particles per millilitre, $100\,\mu l$ of the virus batch is run on an high pressure liquid chromatograph (HPLC). The adenovirus is bound to the column (anion exchange) after which it is eluted using a NaCl gradient (range 300-600 mM). By determining the area under the virus peak the number of virus particles can be calculated. To determine the number of infectious units (IU) per ml present in a virus batch, titrations are performed on 911 cells. For this purpose, $4x10^4$ 911 cells are seeded per well of 96-well plates in rows B, D, and F in a total volume of $100\,\mu l$ per well. Three hours after seeding the cells are attached to the plastic support after which the medium can be removed. To the cells a volume of $200\,\mu l$ is added, in duplicate, containing different dilutions of virus (range: 10^2 times diluted to $2x10^9$). By screening for CPE the highest virus dilution which still renders CPE after 14 days is considered to contain at least one infectious unit. Using this observation, together with the calculated amount of virus volume present in these wells renders the number of infectious units per ml of a given virus batch. The production results i.e. virus particles per ml and IU per ml or those chimaeric adenoviruses that were produced so far, are shown in table 3.

Example 4: Presence of Ad5 Receptor molecules on human cells

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[0071] To investigate the importance of the presence of CAR on target cells for infection with chimaeric adenoviruses, a panel of human cell lines and primary cells were tested for the presence and/ or absence of CAR, MHC class I, and integrins (ανβ3, ανβ5). For this purpose, 1x105 target cells or were transferred to tubes (4 tubes per cell type) designed for flow cytometry. Cells were washed once with PBS/ 0.5% BSA after which the cells were pelleted by centrifugation for 5 minutes at 1750 rpm at room temperature. Subsequently, 10 μ l of a 100 times diluted $\alpha_{\nu}\beta$ 3 antibody (Mab 1961, Brunswick chemie, Amsterdam, The Netherlands), a 100 times diluted antibody α,β5 (antibody (Mab 1976, Brunswick chemie, Amsterdam, The Netherlands), or 2000 times diluted CAR antibody was a kind gift of Dr. Bergelson, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA (Hsu et al) was added to the cell pellet after which the cells were incubated for 30 minutes at 4°C in a dark environment. After this incubation, cells were washed twice with PBS/0.5% BSA and again pelleted by centrifugation for 5 minutes at 1750 rpm room temperature. To label the cells, 10 μl of rat anti mouse IgGl labelled with phycoerythrin (PE) was added to the cell pellet upon which the cells were again incubated for 30 minutes at 4°C in a dark environment. Finally the cells were washed twice with PBS/0.5% BSA and analysed on a flow cytometer. The results of flow cytometric analysis of these experiments are shown in table 4. These results show that human erythroid leukemia cells (K562, ATCC: CCL-243), human primary fibroblasts (GM09503), human primary smooth muscle cells, and primary human synoviocytes do not express detectable levels of the CAR receptor. In contrast, human lung carcinoma cells (A549, ATCC: CCL-1185), human lymphoblast cells (SupT1 (B and T cell hybrid, ATCC, CRL-1991), and human liver cells (HEPG2, ATCC, HB8065) express high amounts of CAR protein. Human lymphoblast cells (CEM, ATCC: CRL-1992), primary human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVEC), and human primary chorion villi express low amounts of CAR protein.

Example 5: Infection of CAR negative cells with fiber chimaeric adenovirus

[0072] Several of the cell types described in example 4, i.e. A549, K562, GM09503, SupT1, chorion villi, and HepG2 were infected with a panel of chimaeric adenoviruses. This panel consists of adenovirus serotype 5 (subgroup C), and of adenovirus serotype 5 containing the fiber of serotypes 16 and 51 (subgroup B), of 28, 32, and 49 (subgroup D), of 12 (subgroup A), and of 40 (40-S and/or 40-L: subgroup F). For this purpose target cells are seeded at a concentration of 10⁵ cells per well of 6-well plates in 2 ml Dulbecco's modified Eagles medium (DMEM, Life Technologies, The Netherlands) supplemented with 10% Foetal calf serum. Twenty-four hours later the medium is replaced by fresh medium containing the different chimaeric adenoviruses at an increasing MOI of 0, 10, 50, 250, 1250, 2500, 5000 (MOI based on virus particles per millilitre). Approximately 2 hours after the addition of virus the medium containing the virus is discarded, cells are washed once with PBS, and subsequently 2 ml of fresh medium (not containing virus) is added

to each well. Forthy-eight hours later cells are harvested, washed and pelleted by centrifuging 5 minutes at 1500 rpm. Cells are subsequently lysed in 0,1 ml lysis buffer (1% Triton-X-100, 15% Glycerol, 2 mM EDTA, 2 mM DTT, and 25 mM MgCl₂ in Tris-phosphate buffer pH 7.8) after which the total protein concentration of the lysate is measured (Biorad, protein standard II). To determine marker gene expression (luciferase activity) 20 µl of the protein sample is mixed with 100 µl of a luciferase substrate (Luciferine, Promega, The Netherlands) and subsequently measured on a Lumat LB 9507 apparatus (EG & G Berthold, The Netherlands). The results of these infection experiments, given as the amount of luciferase activity (RLU) per µg protein, are shown in figures 8-14. From these infection experiments several conclusions can be drawn. The infection of A549 cells (figure 8) demonstrates that all chimaeric adenoviruses tested infect with relative high efficiency these cells. The infection of K562 cells (figure 9) demonstrates that these cells cannot be transduced with adenovirus serotype 5 (subgroup C) or the fiber chimera 12 (subgroup A). All other chimaeric adenoviruses (16/51: subgroup B; 28/32/49: subgroup D; 40-L: subgroup F) are able to infect these cells with different efficiencies. The infection of GM09503 primary human fibroblasts (figure 10) demonstrates that these cells can be transduced with all fiber chimeras including Adenovirus serotype 5 albeit with different efficiencies. The infection of SupT1 cells (figure 11) demonstrates that these cells can be transduced with all fiber chimeras albeit with different efficiencies except for fiber chimera 49 which does not infect these human lymphoblast cells. The infection of human chorion villi cells (figure 12) shows a similar transduction pattern as observed with K562 cells except for adenovirus chimera 49 which does not infect these cells. The infection of HEPG2 cells (figure 13) shows a similar transduction pattern as observed with A549 cells. Linking the CAR expression data of these cells to the infection efficiency data obtained, several conclusions can be drawn. 1) Infection of adenovirus serotype 5 is correlated with the presence of CAR (figure 8-13). 2) In the absence of CAR but in the presence of high amount of MHC class I, poor infection is observed using adenovirus serotype 5, indicating that MHC class I is a worse receptor for adenovirus serotype 5 as compared to CAR (figure 10). 3) In the absence of CAR adenovirus fiber chimeras 16 and 51 (subgroup B) as well as chimeras 28 and 32 (subgroup D) as well as chimera 40-L (subgroup F) can infect cells with high efficiency, indicating that these viruses can utilise receptors other than CAR (figures 9 and 12). 4) A comparison of the infection data of the chimaeric adenoviruses carrying the fiber of 28, 32, and 49 teaches that within an adenovirus subgroup differences in transduction efficiencies exist, indicating that adenovirus members of one subgroup either have different affinities for the same receptor, or that different adherence molecules can be used (figures 8-13) by members of an adenovirus subgroup.

30 Example 6: Complexity of receptor recognition of adenovirus serotypes

[0073] To investigate the complexity and/or the number of different adherence molecules which can be used by human adenoviruses from different subgroups or between members within one subgroup the following strategies are designed.

1) Interference studies with total chimaeric viruses

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[0074] Via infection experiments described in example 5, cell lines are identified that are poorly transducible with a chimaeric viruses carrying the fiber protein of for example serotype 49 (subgroup D) indicating that such a cell expresses low levels of the adherence molecule required for D group adenovirus infection. Next, chimaeric adenoviruses carrying the fiber protein of other members of subgroup D are mixed in different concentrations with the fiber 49 chimaeric adenovirus and subsequently added to the cells. Since the fiber 49 chimaeric adenovirus carries a transgene other than the other subgroup D chimaeric adenoviruses (including but not limited to LacZ, Green Fluorescent Protein Yellow Fluorescent Protein, luciferase etc) interference of infection can be visualised. As a positive control two fiber 49 chimaeric adenoviruses carrying different marker genes is used. Identical to the example for subgroup D described above experiments are conducted with different members of subgroup A, B, C, E, and F. These experiments show if the fiber protein of members of the same adenovirus subgroup recognise the same adherence molecules on a cell membrane. Naturally, this approach is also used to investigate inter-subgroup variation for example usage of adherence molecules by subgroup D and B members

2) Interference studies with fiber protein derived peptides

[0075] Peptides of 6-12 amino acids are synthetically synthesised which together form the complete knob domain of a fiber from a subgroup D, for example 49. Next, one or more peptides are mixed in various concentrations with the fiber 49 chimaeric adenovirus after which the mixture is added to the cells. Using this approach one or more peptides are identified which block, at a certain concentration, the infection of the fiber 49 chimaeric adenovirus. This peptide or these peptides are subsequently used to investigate whether the infection of other subgroup D members is blocked by addition of the peptide(s) and whether inhibition of infection occurs using the same concentration of peptide. Identical

to the example for subgroup D described above peptides are synthesised using the knob domain of a member of subgroup A, B, C, E, and F. These experiments show not only which adherence molecules are used but also which part of the fiber protein is directly involved in binding to target cells. Naturally these peptides are also used to investigate inter-subgroup variation.

3) Interference studies with baculovirus produced recombinant knob proteins

[0076] Of each adenovirus subgroup, the knob region of one member is amplified by PCR. The forward oligonucleotide hybridises to the final repeat of the shaft part of the fiber just upstream of the start of the knob protein. This oligonucleotide contains a restriction site to facilitate cloning, a Histidine (6x) tag for purification after production, and a mutation thereby introducing a Methionine start codon. The reverse oligonucleotide hybridises after the polyA signal and contains a restriction site to facilitate cloning into a baculovirus expression construct. After generation of recombinant baculovirus, insect cells for instance Sf9, are infected. 4-6 days after infection cells are cracked by 3 cycles of freeze/ thaw. Recombinant knob protein is purified from the supernatant using an antibody specifically recognising the His tag. The recombinant knobs are subsequently used in interference studies to investigate the complexity of adenovirus binding between members of different subgroups as well as members within one subgroup.

Example 7: identification of adherence molecules involved in adenovirus subgroup B, D, and F binding and internalisation

[0077] To investigate what adherence molecules are involved in binding and internalisation of adenovirus serotypes from different subgroups in particular subgroups B, D, and F, the following strategies are designed.

1) Phage display libraries

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[0078] Phage display libraries, containing random 6-12 amino acids peptides are imixedî with synthetically synthesised peptides which have identified to block infection of one or more members of either subgroup B, D, and/ or F. Mixing of phages with peptide(s) is performed in an ELISA setting in which the peptide(s) are coated to a plastic support. Several rounds of mixing, washing and elution are performed to obtain an enrichment for phages that truly and specifically bind to the peptide(s). Finally the phages retrieved are amplified and plaque purified after which approximately 20 are sequenced to establish the nature of the peptide insert of the phages. From the consensus sequence of all 20 phages, a (degenerate) oligonucleotide is synthesised which together with a polyA hybridising oligonucleotide is used for the amplification of cDNA sequences both from cells which can or cannot (negative control) be infected with a subgroup B, D, and/or F chimaeric adenovirus. Amplified cDNAs are cloned, sequenced and aligned, amongst others, against existing Genbank sequences.

2) cDNA expression library screening

[0079] cDNA libraries, either commercially available or generated using a CAR-negative cell line which is highly transducible with chimaeric adenoviruses carrying the fiber protein of members of for example subgroup D or subgroup F, are used for expression library screening using either radiolabelled adenovirus or recombinant produced knob proteins as probes. Clones or plaques which bind to the probe are picked, amplified and re-tested for enrichment of probe binding. Finally phages are picked after which the cDNA content is elucidated by sequence analysis. Retrieved cDNAs are cloned, sequenced and aligned, amongst others, against existing Genbank sequences.

3) Peptidase treatment of cells after adenovirus binding

[0080] Cells which are highly transducible with chimaeric adenoviruses carrying the fiber protein of members of for example subgroup D, are treated with different peptidases after binding of the chimaeric adenovirus. The panel of peptidases suited is first tested on the chimaeric adenovirus only to ensure that capsid proteins of the chimaeric virus is not cleaved. Peptidae treated cells are spun down after which the supernatant is added to 24-well plates precoated with anti-adenovirus hexon and/ or penton antibodies. After binding of adenovirus to the precoated plastic support, wells are washed extensively with PBS. Upon washing, the adenovirus is harvested after which either protein gel electrophoresis or Malditoff is used to identify whether parts of a cellular protein is bound to the fiber protein or whether extra protein bands are visible as compared to protein gel electrophoresis or Malditoff of a purified batch of adenovirus only. As a negative control for the above described experiments cells negative for infection with a chimaeric adenovirus carrying a fiber of a member of subgroup D can be used. Alternatively, cells which are highly transducible with chimaeric adenoviruses carrying the fiber protein of members of for example subgroup D, are first treated with peptidases after

which the medium is incubated with adenoviruses bound to a plastic support.

[0081] The above described examples encompasses the construction of recombinant adenoviral vectors chirmaeric for the fiber protein which results in an altered infection hostrange. The alteration of the infection host range results in highly efficient infection of cells negative for the CAR protein which is the protein required by adenovirus serotype 5 for efficient infection. These vectors are generated for the purpose of gene transfer and recombinant DNA vaccines. These vectors are thus ideally suited for gene transfer to tissues, and/or organs of which de cells do not express detectable levels of CAR.

Table 1: Association of human adenovirus serotypes with human disease.

Figure and table legends

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Table 2: Oligonucleotides and degenerate oligonucleotides used for the amplification of DNA encoding for fiber protein derived from alternative human adenovirus serotypes. Bold letters in oligonucleotides A-E represent an Ndel restriction site. Bold letters in oligonucleotides 1-6 and 8 represent an Nsil restriction site. Bold letters in oligonucleotide 7 represents a Pacl restriction site.

Table 3: Production results of fiber chimaeric adenoviruses. The number of virus particles per ml were determined using HPLC. The number of infectious units (IU) per millilitre were determined through titration on human 911 cells. For infection experiments, the number of virus particles per millilitre is taken from all chimaeric adenoviruses since IU/ ml reflects a receptor mediated process.

Table 4: Flow cytometric results on expression of integrins $\alpha_v \beta 3$ and $\alpha_v \beta 5$, the Coxsacki adenovirus receptor (CAR), and MHC class I on the membranes of human cell lines and human primary cells. A549: Human lung carcinoma cell line (ATCC, CCL-1185). K562: Human erythroid leukemia (ATCC, CCL-243). SupT1: Human Lymphoblast hybrid B and T (ATCC, CRL-1991). GM09503: Human primary fibroblasts. HEPG2: Human liver carcinoma (ATCC, HB8065). CEM: human lymphoblast cells (ATCC, CRL-1992). HeLa: Human cervix carcinoma (ATCC, CCL-2). Primary amniocytes and chorion villi cells were obtained from department of antropogenetics, Leiden, The Netherlands. Primary Smooth muscle cells, Human umbilical vein endothelial cells, and synoviocytes were obtained from TNO-PG, Leiden, The Netherlands. Shown is the percentage of cells expressing either molecule on their membrane. ND: not determined. 0% means undetectable expression of the molecule on the membrane of the cell using flow cytometry. 100% means high expression of the molecule on the cell membrane.

[0082] Figure 1: Schematic presentation of adapter plasmid pMLPI.TK.

[0083] Figure 2: Schematic presentation of adapter plasmid pAd/L420-HAS.

[0084] Figure 3: Schematic presentation of adapter plasmid pAd5/CLIP

[0085] Figure 4: Schematic presentation of plasmid system which requires only one recombinational event to generate recombinant adenoviruses.

[0086] Figure 5: Schematic presentation of plasmid system which requires two recombinational events to generate recombinant adenoviruses.

[0087] Figure 6: Schematic presentation of generation of plasmid pBr/AdBamRDeltaFib in which the Adenovirus type 5 fiber DNA is replaced by a short DNA stretch containing an unique Nsil site.

[0088] Figure 7: Fiber protein sequences of adenovirus serotypes 8, 9, 13, 14,20, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, and 51. Bold letters represent part of the tail of adenovirus serotype 5. If bold letters not present it means that a PCR fragment was sequenced which does not contain the Ad5 tail. An X, present in the sequence means unidentified amino acid due to unidentified nucleotide. At the end of the sequence the stop codon of the fiber is presented by a dot.

[0089] Figure 8: Transduction of human lung carcinoma cells (A549) with a panel of chimaeric adenoviruses carrying the fiber of adenovirus 12, 16, 17, 28, 32, 40-L, or 51. Adenovirus 5 served as reference. Cells were infected with increasing MOI based on virus particles per cell: 10, 50, 250, 1250, 2500 (see legend on the right of graph). Luciferase transgene expression is expressed as relative light units (RLU) per μg of protein.

[0090] Figure 9: Transduction of human erythroid leukemia cells (K562) with a panel of chimaeric adenoviruses carrying the fiber of adenovirus 12, 16, 28, 32, 40-S, 40-L, 49, or 51. Adenovirus 5 served as reference. Cells were infected with increasing MOI based on virus particles per cell: 10, 50, 250, 1250, 2500, 5000 (see legend on the right of graph). Luciferase transgene expression is expressed as relative light units (RLU) per µg of protein. Error bars represent SD.

[0091] Figure 10: Transduction of human primary fibroblasts (GM09503) with a panel of chimaeric adenoviruses carrying the fiber of adenovirus 12, 16, 28, 32, 40-L, 49, or 51. Adenovirus 5 served as reference. Cells were infected with increasing MOI based on virus particles per cell: 10, 50, 250, 1250, 2500, 5000 (see legend on the right of graph).

- Luciferase transgene expression is expressed as relative light units (RLU) per µg of protein. Error bars represent SD. [0092] Figure 11: Transduction of human lymphoblast cells (SupT1) with a panel of chimaeric adenoviruses carrying the fiber of adenovirus 12, 16, 28, 32, 40-S, 40-L, 49, or 51. Adenovirus 5 served as reference. Cells were infected with increasing MOI based on virus particles per cell: 10, 50, 250, 1250, 2500, 5000 (see legend on the right of graph).
- Luciferase transgene expression is expressed as relative light units (RLU) per μg of protein. Error bars represent SD. [0093] Figure 12: Transduction of human chorion villi cells with a panel of chimaeric adenoviruses carrying the fiber of adenovirus 12, 16, 28, 32, 40-L, 49, or 51. Adenovirus 5 served as reference. Cells were infected with increasing MOI based on virus particles per cell: 10, 50, 250, 1250, 2500, 5000 (see legend on the right of graph). Luciferase transgene expression is expressed as relative light units (RLU) per μg of protein. Error bars represent SD.
- [0094] Figure 13: Transduction of human hepatic cells (HEPG2) with a panel of chimaeric adenoviruses carrying the fiber of adenovirus 12, 16, 28, 32, 40-S, 40-L, 49, or 51. Adenovirus 5 served as reference. Cells were infected with increasing MOI based on virus particles per cell: 10, 50, 250, 1250, 2500, 5000 (see legend on the right of graph). Luciferase transgene expression is expressed as relative light units (RLU) per μg of protein. Error bars represent SD.

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Tables and figures

[0137]

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Table 1

Syndrom	Subgenus	Serotype							
Respiratory illness	Α	31							
	В	3, 7, 11, 14, 21, 34, 35, 51							
	C	1,2,5,6							
	D	39, 42-48							
	E	4							
Keratoconjunctivitis (eye)	В	11 ·							
	D	8, 19, 37, 50							
Hemorrhagic cystitis (Kidney)	В	7, 11, 14, 16, 21, 34, 35							
And urogenital tract infections	С	5							

Table 1 (continued)

Syndrom	Subgenus	Serotype
	D	39, 42-48
Sexual transmission	С	2
	D	19, 37
Gastroenteritis	Α	31
	В	3
	c	1, 2, 5
	ם	28
·	F	40, 41
CNS disease	A	12, 31
,	В	3, 7
	c	2, 5, 6
	D	32, 49
Hepatitis	A	31
	C	1,2,5
Disseminated	A	31
	В	3, 7, 11, 21
	D	30, 43-47
None (???)	Α	18
	D	9, 10, 13, 15 17, 20, 22-29, 33, 36, 38

Table 2

Serotype	Tail oligonucleotide	Knob oligonucleotide
4	Α	1
8	В	2
9	В	2
- 12	E	3
16	C	4
19p	В	2
28	В	2
32	В	2
36	В	2
37	В	2
40-1	D	5
40-2	D	6
41-s	D .	5
41-1	D	7
49	В	2

A: 5'- CCC GTG TAT CCA TAT GAT GCA GAC AAC GAC CGA CC- 3'

B: 5'- CCC GTC TAC CCA TAT GGC TAC GCG CGG- 3'

C: 5'- CCK GTS TAC CCA TAT GAA GAT GAA AGC- 3'

D: 5'- CCC GTC TAC CCA TAT GAC ACC TYC TCA ACT C- 3'

E: 5'- CCC GTT TAC CCA TAT GAC CCA TTT GAC ACA TCA GAC- 3'

1: 5"- CCG ATG CAT TTA TTG TTG GGC TAT ATA GGA - 3'

2: 5'- CCG ATG CAT TYA TTC TTG GGC RAT ATA GGA - 3'

3: 5'- CCG ATG CAT TTA TTC TTG GGR AAT GTA WGA AAA GGA - 3'

4: 5'- CCG ATG CAT TCA GTC ATC TTC TCT GAT ATA - 3'

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Table 2 (continued)

Serotype	Tail oligonucleotide	Knob oligonucleotide
50	В	2
51	C ·	8
5: 5'- CC	GATG CAT TTA TTG TTC A	GT TAT GTA GCA - 3'
6: 5'- GC	C ATG CAT TTA TTG TTC T	GT TAC ATA AGA - 3'
7: 5' - CC	G TTA ATT AAG CCC TTA	TTG TTC TGT TAC ATA AGA A - 3'
8: 5'- CC	G ATG CAT TCA GTC ATC Y	TC TWT AAT ATA - 3'

Table 3

Adenovirus	Virus particles/ ml	Infectious units/ ml
Ad5Fib5	2.2 x 10 ¹²	6.8 x 10 ¹¹
Ad5Fib12	4.4 x 10 ¹²	1.9 x 10 ¹²
Ad5Fib16	1.4 x 10 ¹²	3.0 x 10 ¹⁰
Ad5Fib17	9.3 x 10 ¹¹	9.5 x 10 ⁹
Ad5Fib28	5.4 x 10 ¹⁰	2.8 x 10 ⁸
Ad5Fib32	2.0 x 10 ¹²	1.1 x 10 ¹²
Ad5Fib40-S	3.2 x 10 ¹⁰	1.0 x 10 ¹⁰
Ad5Fib40-L	2.0 x 10 ¹²	6.4 x 10 ¹¹
Ad5Fib49	1.2 x 10 ¹²	4.3 x 10 ¹¹
Ad5Fib51	5.1 x 10 ¹²	1.0 x 10 ¹²

Table 4

Cell line	α _ν β3	α _ν β5	CAR	MHC class I
A549	17%	98%	100%	ND
K562	12%	55%	0%	15%
GM09503	20%	50%	0%	100%
CEM	0%	0%	3%	100%
SupT1	5%	1%	70%	100%
Smooth muscle cells	100%	70%	0%	15%
HUVEC	100%	15%	10%	90%
Synoviocytes	30%	40%	0%	100%
10chorionvilli	100%	0%	12%	100%
HepG2	0%	10%	100%	80%

Annex to the application documents - subsequently filed sequences listing

[0138]

5

SEQUENCE LISTING

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Pro Ser Pro Asn Cys Lys Ala Glu Thr Glu Lys Asp Ser Lys Leu Thr

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	Pro Thr Ser Asn Leu Ser 275	Lys Glu Tyr Trp Asn 280	Tyr Arg Ser Tyr Asp 285
15	Asn Asn Ile Gly Thr Pro 290	Tyr Glu Asn Ala Val 295	Pro Phe Met Pro Asn 300
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	Val Lys Thr Gly His Se	er Ile Gly Leu Ser Leu	I Gly Ala Gly Leu Gly

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٠.				180					185				Lys	190			
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		210		_			215					220	Ile				
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					245					250			Leu		255	_	
35				260					265				Thr	270			
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25	-				165		Thr			170					175	
		_	_	180			Val		185					190		
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40					245	•				250)				255	
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45			275	5				280					285			: Asn
		29	0				295	5				300)			Tyr
50	30	5				31	0			•	31	5				320
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25	Gln Val Ala Ala Asp Lys Gln Leu Glu Ile Ala Leu Ala Asp Pro Phe 65 70 75 80
	Glu Val Ser Lys Gly Arg Leu Gly Ile Lys Ala Gly His Gly Leu Lys 85 90 95
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	Cys Lys Val Ile Glu Ala Lys Asp Ser Lys Leu Thr Leu Val Leu Thr 180 185 190
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	Ile Lys Leu Leu Phe Asn Asp Lys Gly Val Leu Met Asp Gly Ser Ser 225 230 235 240
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	Pr	b Ly	s Al	a Pro	o Le	u Gl	n Vai	L Ala			/ Glr	Lei	ı Glu			Tyr
				100	0				10	•				110)	

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	145			Thr		150					155					160
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	-	_		Asp 180					185					190		
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·	Asp			rio	ASN	cys	215		νzb	116	OLU	220		Sel	пys	Leu
55		210	,				217					~~0			·	
	ጥ ክ r	יום[Va1	Len	Thr	Lvs	Cvs	Glv	Ser	Gln	Ile	Leu	Ala	Asn	Val	Ser
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			355					360)				365	•		Thr
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			195					200					205	•		Pro
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	Me	t Pro) Ası	ı Ile	Ly:	s Ala	а Ту	r Pr	b Ly	s Pro	o Thi	Thi	Asp	Thi	: Sei	Ala

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	Va.)		c Thi	c Asp	Lys	7 (ı Glı	ı Ile	: Ala	Leu 75		Туг	Pro	Phe	61u 80
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		290	•				295			Phe	_	300	_	_		
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275	ı Leu
290 295 300 Leu Lys Ala Tyr Pro Asn Pro Lys Thr Ser Thr Val Leu Pro Ser 305 Asp Lys Lys Ser Asn Gly Lys Asn Thr Ile Val Ser Asn Leu Tyr 325 Glu Gly Lys Ala Tyr Gln Pro Val Ala Val Thr Ile Thr Phe Asn 340 Glu Thr Gly Cys Thr Tyr Ser Ile Thr Phe Glu Phe Gly Trp Ala 355 Thr Tyr Asp Val Pro Ile Pro Phe Asp Ser Ser Ser Phe Thr Phe 370 375 Tyr Ile Ala Gln Glu 385 220 221> YARIANT 222> (213> adenoviridae 222> (221> VARIANT 2223> /note="Serotype 48 fiber protein" 2400> 56	Asp
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Glu Thr Gly Cys Thr Tyr Ser Ile Thr Phe Glu Phe Gly Trp Ala 355 Thr Tyr Asp Val Pro Ile Pro Phe Asp Ser Ser Ser Phe Thr Phe 370 Tyr Ile Ala Gln Glu 385 **C210> 56 **C211> 343 **C212> PRT **C213> adenoviridae **C220> **C221> VARIANT **C22> (1)(343) **C22> (1)(343) **C22> (1)(343) **C23> /note="Serotype 48 fiber protein" **C400> 56 Ser Asp Ile Pro Phe Leu Thr Pro Pro Phe Val Ser Ser Asp Gl 1 Gln Asn Phe Pro Pro Gly Val Leu Ser Leu Lys Leu Ala Asp Pr 20 Thr Ile Thr Asn Gly Asn Val Ser Leu Lys Val Gly Gly Gly Le 50 Thr Ile Thr Asn Gly Asn Val Ser Leu Lys Val Gly Gly Gly Le	
25 355 360 365 Thr Tyr Asp Val Pro Ile Pro Phe Asp Ser Ser Ser Phe Thr Phe 370 375 380 Tyr Ile Ala Gln Glu 385 <pre></pre>	n Lys
370 375 380 Tyr Ile Ala Gln Glu 385 <pre></pre>	
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35	-
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Ser Asp Ile Pro Phe Leu Thr Pro Pro Phe Val Ser Ser Asp Gl 1	
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Leu Gln Glu Gly Thr Gly Asp Leu Lys Val Asn Ala Lys Ser Pr	5
50 55 60	5 o Ile
Gln Val Ala Thr Asn Lys Gln Leu Glu Ile Ala Leu Ala Lys Pr 65 70 75	o Ile u Thr

	Glu	Glu	Lys	Asp	Gly 85	Lys	Leu	Ala	Leu	Lys 90	Ile	Gly	His	Glu	Leu 95	Ala
5	Val	Val	qzA	Glu 100	Asn	Leu	Thr	His	Leu 105	Gln	Ser	Leu	Ile	Gly 110	Thr	Leu
	Val	Ile	Leu 115	Thr	Gly	Lys	Gly	Ile 120	Gly	Thr	Gly	Arg	Ala 125	Glu	Ser	Gly
10	Gly	Thr 130	Ile	Asp	Val	Arg	Leu 135	Gly	Ser	Gly	Gly	Gly 140	Leu	Ser	Phe	Asp
	Lys 145	Asp	Gly	Asn	Leu	Val 150	Ala	Trp	Asn	Lys	Asp 155	Asp	Asp.	Arg	Arg	Thr 160
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*	•			260		Gly			265					270		
35			275			Thr	•	280					285		٠	
		290	ļ				295				٠	300				Gly
40	305	•				Thr 310					315					320
	Туг	Sei	: Ile	Thr	225		Phe	Ala	Trp	330		Thr	Tyr	Lys	Met 335	Ala
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10	Gly	Tyr	Ala . 35	Arg .	Asn	Gln	Asn	Ile 40	Pro	Phe	Leu	Thr	Pro 45	Pro	Phe	Val
	Ser	Scr . 50	Asp	Gly	Phe	Gln	Asn 55	Phe	Pro	Pro	Gly	Val 60	Leu	Ser	Leu	Lуз
15	Leu 65	Ala.	Asp	Pro	Ile	Ala 70	Ile	Thr	Asn	Gly	Asn 75	Val	Ser	Leu	Lys	Val 80
20	_	Gly			85					90	•				95	
		Lys		100					105					110		
25		Ala	115			•		120					125			
	_	His 130					135					140				
30	145	Leu				150					155					160
		Leu			165					170					175	
35		Gly		180			•		185					190		
-		Trp	195					200	l				205			
40		210 Val				-	215					220				
45	225					230)		•		235					240 Pro
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55	-	290).				295	5				300)			
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	305		310		315	320
5	Ala Asn Pr	o Glu Asp 325	Lys Lys	Ser Ala Ala 330	Lys Lys Thr	Ile Val Thr 335
	Asn Val Ty	r Leu Gly 340	Gly Asp	Ala Ala Lys 345	Pro Val Ala	Thr Thr Ile 350
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15	Asn 225	Leu	Lys	Ile	Prọ	Leu 230	Lys	Asn	Lys	Ser	ser 235	Thr	Ala	Thr	Ser	Glu 240
	Ala	Ala	Thr	Ser	Ser 245	Lys	Ala	Phe	Met	Pro 250	Ser	Thr	Thr	Ala	Tyr 255	Pro
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25	Ile	Met 290		Asn	Ser	Arg	Thr 295		Ser	Ser	Asn	Val 300	Ala	Tyr	Ala	Ile
30	Gln 305		Glu	Trp	Asn	Leu 310		Ala	Lys	Glu	Ser 315	Pro	Glu	Ser	Asn	11e 320
	Ala	Thr	Leu	Thr	Thr 325		Pro	Phe	Phe	Phe 330		Tyr	: Ile	Ile	Glu 335	
35	Thr	Thr	Lys	Cys 340		Ser	Leu	Cys	Tyr 345		Ser	Thr	: Cys	Leu 350	Phe	Phe
	Asn	1														

Claims

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- A method for delivering a nucleic acid of interest to a host cell by means of a gene delivery vehicle based on adenoviral material, whereby said gene delivery vehicle delivers the nucleic acid to the host cell by associating with a binding site and/or a receptor present on CAR-negative cells, said binding site and/or receptor being a binding site and/or a receptor for adenovirus subgroups D and/or F.
- 2. Use of a gene delivery vehicle comprising a nucleic acid of interest and comprising adenoviral material involved in binding to a host cell, said material being from a subgroup D and/or F adenovirus, in delivering said nucleic acid of interest to a CAR-negative cell.
- A gene delivery vehicle being a chimaera based on at least two adenoviruses, whereby a cell recognising element
 of said gene delivery vehicle is based on adenoviral material from a subgroup D and/or F adenovirus, which material
 confers the capability of infecting CAR negative cells.
- A gene delivery vehicle according to claim 3, wherein said adenoviral material is based on a fiber, a penton and/ or a hexon protein of a subgroup D and/or subgroup F adenovirus.
- A gene delivery vehicle according to claim 3 or 4, further comprising an element from adenovirus 35, responsible
 for at least partially avoiding an immune response against adenovirus 35.
 - 6. A gene delivery vehicle according to any one of claims 3-5, which comprises an element of adenovirus 16 or a functional analogue thereof, which element confers said virus with an enhanced capability to infect smooth muscle cells and/or synoviocytes.
 - 7. A gene delivery vehicle according to any one of claims 3-6, comprising a nucleic acid derived from an adenovirus.
 - 8. A gene delivery vehicle according to any one of claims 3-7, comprising a nucleic acid derived from at least two different adenoviruses.
 - 9. A gene delivery vehicle according to claim 7 or claim 8, wherein said nucleic acid comprises at least one sequence encoding a capsid protein comprising at least a tissue tropism determining fragment of a subgroup D and/or subgroup F adenovirus capsid protein.
- 35 10. A gene delivery vehicle according to any one of claims 7-9, wherein said nucleic acid derived from adenovirus is modified such that the capacity of said nucleic acid to replicate in a target cell has been reduced or disabled.
 - 11. A gene delivery vehicle according to any one of claims 7-10, wherein said nucleic acid derived from adenovirus is modified such that the capacity of a host immune system to mount an immune response against adenovirus proteins encoded by said nucleic acid derived from adenovirus has been reduced or disabled.
 - 12. A gene delivery vehicle according to anyone of claims 7-11, comprising a minimal adenovirus vector or an integrating adenovirus such as an Ad/AAV chimaeric vector, a retro-adenovirus or a transposon-adenovirus.
- 45 13. A gene delivery vehicle according to anyone of the claims 1-12, further comprising at least one non-adenovirus nucleic acid.
 - 14. A gene delivery vehicle according to anyone of claims 7-13, wherein said nucleic acid derived from adenovirus is produced by welding together through homologous recombination two nucleic acid molecules comprising partially overlapping sequences wherein said overlapping sequences allow essentially only one homologous recombination which leads to the generation of a physically linked nucleic acid comprising at least two functional adenovirus inverted terminal repeats, a functional encapsulation signal, a nucleic acid of interest, or functional parts, derivatives and/or analogues thereof.
- 15. A cell for the production of a gene delivery vehicle according to anyone of the claims 3-14, comprising means for the assembly of said gene delivery vehicle wherein said means includes a means for the production of an adenovirus capsid protein, wherein said capsid protein comprises at least a receptor and/or binding site binding fragment of a subgroup D and/or subgroup F adenovirus capsid protein.

- 16. A cell according to claim 15, wherein said cell is or is derived from a PER.C6 cell (ECACC deposit number 96022940).
- 17. The use of a gene delivery vehicle according to anyone of the claims 1-14 as a pharmaceutical.
- 18. A receptor and/or a binding site for adenoviruses type D and/or F, present on or associated with CAR negative cells.
- 19. A receptor and/or a binding site according to claim 18, present on K562 cells, amniotic fluid cells and/or primary fibroblast cells.
- 20. A capsid protein derived from a subgroup D and/or a subgroup F adenovirus or a functional part, derivative and/or analogue thereof.
- 21. A capsid protein according to claim 20, wherein said protein is a fiber protein.

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- 22. An isolate and/or recombinant nucleic acid encoding a capsid protein according to claim 20 or claim 21.
- 23. An isolate and/or recombinant nucleic acid according to claim 22, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a sequence as depicted in figure 7.

Figure 1

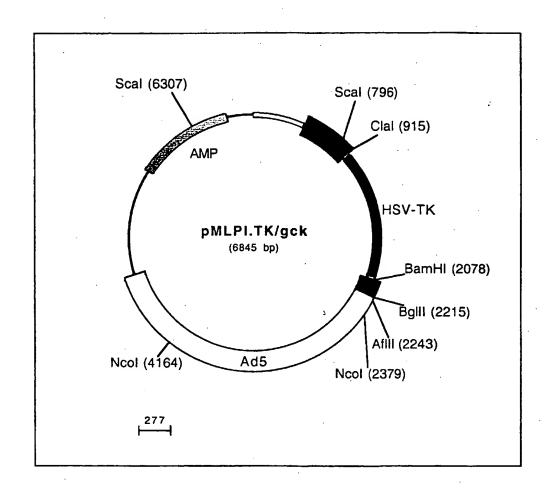


Figure 2

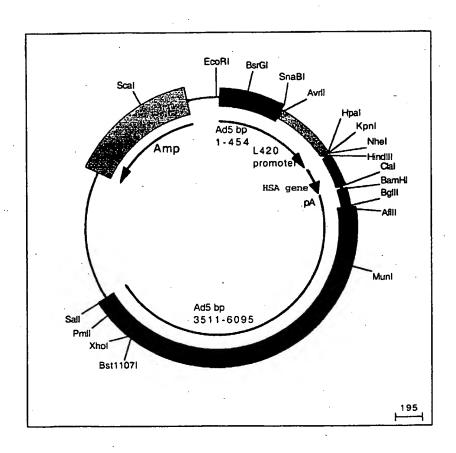


Figure 3

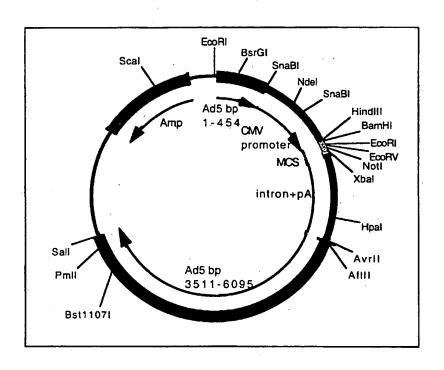


Figure 4

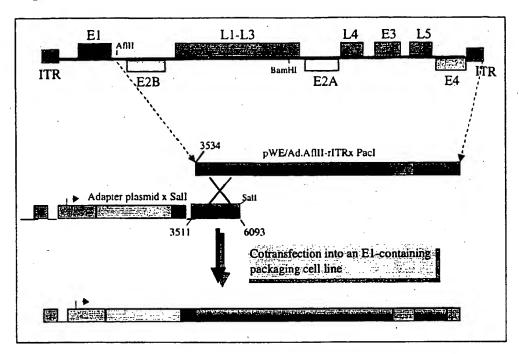


Figure 5

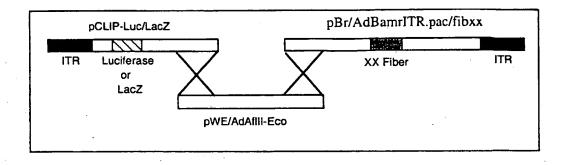


Figure 6

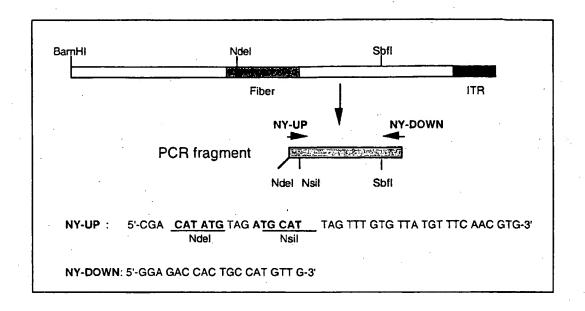


Figure 7:

1.1: Serotype 8 fiber protein

SCSCPSAPTIFMLLQMKRARPSEDTFNPVYPYGYARNQNIPFLTPPFVSSNGFQ NFPPGVLSLKLADPITINNQNVSLKVGGGLTLQEETGKLTVNTEPPLHLTNNKLGI ALDAPFDVIDNKLTLLAGHGLSIITKETSTLPGLVNTLVVLTGKGIGTDLSNNGGN ICVRVGEGGGLSFNDNGDLVAFNKKEDKRTLWTTPDTSPNCRIDQDKDSKLTLV LTKCGSQILANVSLIVVAGRYKIINNNTNPALKGFTIKLLFDKNGVLMESSNLGKS YWNFRNQNSIMSTAYEKAIGFMPNLVAYPKPTTGSKKYARDIVYGNIYLGGKPH QPVTIKTTFNQETGCEYSITFDFSWAKTYVNVEFETTSFTFSYIAQE.

1.2: Serotype 9 fiber protein

SCSCPSAPTIFMLLQMKRARPSEDTFNPVYPYGYARNQNIPFLTPPFVSSDGFQ NFPPGVLSLKLADPIAIVNGNVSLKVGGGLTLQDGTGKLTVNADPPLQLTNNKL GIALDAPFDVIDNKLTLLAGHGLSIITKETSTLPGLINTLVVLTGKGIGTESTDNGG SVCVRVGEGGGLSFNNDGDLVAFNKKEDKRTLWTTPDTSPNCKIDQDKDSKLTL VLTKCGSQILANVSLIVVAGKYKIINNNTQPALKGFTIKLLFDENGVLMESSNLGK SYWNFRNENSIMSTAYEKAIGFMPNLVAYPKPTAGSKKYARDIVYGNIYLGGKP DQPVTIKTTFNQETGCEYSITFDFSWAKTYVNVEFETTSFTFSYIAQE.

1.3: Serotype 13 fiber protein

XXXXXSAPTIFMLLQMKRARSSXDTFNPVYPYGYARNQNIXFXTPPFVXSDGF KNFPPGVLSLKLADPITIANGDVSLKVGGGLTLQEGSLTVDPKAPLQLANDKKLE LVYDDPFEVSTNKLSLKVGHGLKVLDDKSAGGLKDLIGKLVVLTGKGIGIENLQ NDDGSSRGVGINVRLGTDGGLSFDRKGELVAWNRKDDRRTLWTTPDPSPNCKA ETEKDSKLTLVLTKCGSQILATVSIIVLKGKYEFVKKETEPKSFDVKLLFDSKGVL LPTSNLSKEYWNYRSYDNNIGTPYENAVPFMPNLKAYPKPTKTASDKAENKISS AKNKIVSNFYFGGQAYQPGTIIIKFNEEIDETCAYSITFNFGWGKVYDNPFPFDTTS FTXSYIAOE.

1.4: Serotype 14 fiber protein

HPFINPGFISPNGFTQSPDGVLTLKCLTPLTTTGGSLQLKVGGGLTVDDTDGTLQE NIGATTPLVKTGHSIGLSLGAGLGTDENKLCTKLGEGLTFNSNNICIDDNINTLWT GVNPTEANCQMMDSSESNDCKLILTLVKTGALVTAFVYVIGVSNNFNMLTTYRN INFTAELFFDSAGNLLTSLSSLKTPLNHKSGQTWLLVPLLMLKVSCPAQLLILSIIIL EKNKTTFTELVTTQLVITLLFPLTISVMLNQRAIRADTSYCIRITWSWNTGDAPEG QTSATTLVTS

1.5: Serotype 20 fiber protein

IQNIPFLTPPFVSSDGLQNFPPGVLSLKLADPIAIVNGNVSLKVGGGITVEQDSGQL IANPKAPLQVANDKLELSYAYPFETSANKLSLKVGQGLKVLDEKDSGGLQNLLG KLVVLTGKGIGVEELKNPDNTNRGVGINVRLGKDGGLSFNKNGELVAWNKHND

TGTLWTTPDPSPNCKIEEVKDSKLTLVLTKCGSQILATMAFQVVKGTYENISKNT AKNSFSIKLLFDDNGKLLEGSSLDKDYWNFRSDDSIIPNQYDNAVPFMPNLKAYP KPSTVLPSTDKNSNGKNTIVSNLYLEGKAYQPVAVTITFNKEIGCTYSITFDFGWA KTYDVPIPFDSSSFT

1.6: Serotype 23 fiber protein

QNIPFLTPPFVSSDGFQNFPPGVLSLKLADPIAITNGDVSLKVGGGLTVEQDSGNL KVNTKAPLQVAADKQLEIALADPFEVSKGRLGIKAGHGLKVIDNSISGLEGLVGT LVVLTGHGIGTENLLNNDGSSRGVGINVRLGKDGGLSFDKKGDLVAWNKKYDT RTLWTTPDPSPNCKVIEAKDSKLTLVLTKCGSQILANMSLLILKGTYEYISNAIAN KSFTIKLLFNDKGVLMDGSSLDKDYWNYKSDDSVMSKAYENAVPFMPNLKAYP NPTTSTTNPSTDKKSNGKNAIVSNVYLEGRAYQPVAITITFNKETGCTYSMTFDF GWSKVYNDPIPFDTSSLT

1.7: Serotype 24 fiber protein

SCSCPSAPTIFMLLQMKRARPSEDTFNPVYPYGYARNQNIPFLTPPFVSSDGFQ NFPPGVLSLKLADPIAITNGDVSLKVGGGLTVEKDSGNLKVNPKAPLQVTTDKQL EIALAYPFEVSNGKLGIKAGHGLKVIDKIAGLEGLAGTLVVLTGKGIGTENLENS DGSSRGVGINVRLAKDGGLSFDKKGDLVAWNKHDDRRTLWTTPDPSPNCTIDQ ERDSKLTLVLTKCGSQILANVSLLVVKGKFSNINNNTNPTDKKITVKLLFNEKGV LMDSSTLKKEYWNYRNDNSTVSQAYDNAVPFMPNIKAYPKPTTDTSAKPEDKK SAAKRYIVSNVYIGGLPDKTVVITIKFNAETECAYSITFEFTWAKTFEDVQFDSSSF TFSYIAQE.

1.8: Serotype 25 fiber protein

SCSCPSAPTIFMLLQMKRARPSEDTFNPVYPYGYARNQNIPFLTPPFVSSDGFQ NFPPGVLSLKLADPITISNGDVSLKVGGGLTVEQDSGNLSVNPKAPLQVGTDKKL ELALAPPFNVKDNKLDLLVGDGLKVIDKSISXLPGLLNYLVVLTGKGIGNEELKN DDGSNKGVGLCVRIGEGGGLTFDDKGYLVAWNKKHDIRTLWTTLDPSPNCRID VDKDSKLTLVLTKCGSQILANVSLLVVKGRFQNLNYKTNPNLPKTFTIKLLFDEN GILKDSSNLDKNYWNYRNGNSILAEQYKNAVGFMPNLAAYPKSTTTQSKLYAR NTIFGNIYLDSOAYNPVVIKITFNOEADSAYSITLNYSWGKDYENIPFDS

1.9: Serotype 27 fiber protein

IPFLTPPFVSSDGFKNFPPGVLSLKLADPITITNGDVSLKVGGGLVVEKESGKLSV DPKTPLQVASDNKLELSYNAPFKVENDKLSLDVGHGLKVIGNEVSSLPGLINKLV VLTGKGIGTEELKEQNSDKIIGVGINVRARGGLSFDNDGYLVAWNPKYDTRTLW TTPDTSPNCKMLTKKDSKLTLTLTKCGSQILGNVSLLAVSGKYLNMTKDETGVKI ILLFDRNGVLMQESSLDKEYWNYRNDNNVIGTPYENAVGFMPNLVAYPKPTSA DAKNYSRSKIISNVYLKGLIYQPVIIIASFNQETTNGCVYSISFDFTCSKDYTGQQF DVTSF

1.10: Serotype 28 fiber protein

SCSCPSAPTIFMLLQMKRARPSEDTFNPVYPYGYARNQNIPFLTPPFVSSDGFQ NFPPGVLSLKLADPITIANGDVSLKLGGGLTVEKESGNLTVNPKAPLQVASGQLE LAYYSPFDVKNNMLTLKAGHGLAVVTKDNTDLQPLMGTLVVLTGKGIGTGTSA

HGGTIDVRIGKNGSLAFDKNGDLVAWDKENDRRTLWTTPDTSPNCKMSEVKDS KLTLILTKCGSQILGSVSLLAVKGEYQNMTASTNKNVKITLLFDANGVLLEGSSL DKEYWNFRNNDSTVSGKYENAVPFMPNITAYKPVNSKSYARSHIFGNVYIDAKP YNPVVIKISFNQETQNNCVYSISFDYTCSKEYTGMQFDVTSFTFSYIAQE.

1.11: Serotype 29 fiber protein

QNIPFLTPPFVSSDGFKNFPPGVLSLKLADPIAITNGDVSLKVGGGLTVEQDSGNL SVNPKAPLQVGTDKKLELALAPPFDVRDNKLAILVGDGLKVIDRSISDLPGLLNY LVVLTGKGIGNEELKNDDGSNKGVGLCVRIGEGGGLTFDDKGYLVAWNNKHDI RTLWTTLDPSPNCKIDIEKDSKLTLVLTKCGSQILANVSLIIVNGKFKILNNKTDPS LPKSFNIKLLFDQNGVLLENSNIEKQYLNFRSGDSILPEPYKNAIGFMPNLLAYAK ATTDQSKIYARNTIYGNIYLDNQPYNPVVIKITFNNEADSAYSITFNYSWTKDYD NIPFDSTSFTS

1.12: Serotype 30 fiber protein

SCSCPSAPTIFMLLQMKRARPSXDTFNPVYPYGYARNQNIPFXTPPFVXSDGFK NFPPGVLSLKLADPIAITNGDVSLKVGGGLTVEQDSGNLSVNXKAPLQVGTDKK LELALAPPFDVRDNKLAILVGDGLKVIDRSISDLPGLLNYLVVXTGKGIGNEELK NDDGSNKGVGLCVRIGEGGGLTXDDKGYLVAWNNKHDIRTLWTTLDPSPNCKI DIEKDSKLTLVLTKCGSQILANVSLIIVNGKFKILNNKTDPSLPKSFNIKLLFDQNG VLLENSNIEKQYLNFRSGDSILPEPYKNAIGFMPNLLAYAKATTDQSKIYARNTIY GNIYLDNQPYNPVVIKITFNNEADSAYSITFNYSWTKDYDNIPFDSTSFTFSYIAQE

1.13: Serotype 32 fiber protein

SCSCPSAPTIFMLLQMKRARPSEDTFNPVYPYGYARNQNIPFLTPPFVSSDGFQ NFPPGVLSLKLADPITIANGNVSLKVGGGLTLEQDSGKLIVNPKAPLQVANDKLE LSYADPFETSANKLSLKVGHGLKVLDEKNAGGLKDLIGTLVVLTGKGIGVEELK NADNTNRGVGINVRLGKDGGLSFDKKGDLVAWNKHDDRRTLWTTPDPSPNCTI DEERDSKLTLVLTKCGSQILANVSLLVVKGKFSNINNNTNPTDKKITVKLLFNEK GVLMDSSSLKKEYWNYRNDNSTVSQAYDNAVPFMPNIKAYPKPTTDTSAKPED KKSAAKRYIVSNVYIGGLPDKTVVITIKLNAETESAYSMTFEFTWAKTFENLQFD SSSFTFSYIAQE.

1.14: Serotype 33 fiber protein

SCSCPSAPTIFMLLQMKRARPSEDTFNPVYPYGYARNQNIPFLTPPFVSSDGFK NFPPGVLSLKLADPITITNGDVSLKVGGGLTLQEGSLTVNPKAPLQLANDKKLEL VYDDPFEVSTNKLSLKVGHGLKVLDDKSAGGLQDLIGKLVVLTGKGIGIENLQN DDGSSRGVGINVRLGTDGGLSFDRKGELVAWNRKDDRRTLWTTPDPSPNCKAE TEKDSKLTLVLTKCGSQILATVSIIVLKGKYEFVKKETEPKSFDVKLLFDSKGVLL PTSNLSKEYWNYRSYDNNIGTPYENAVPFMPNLKAYPKPTKTASDKAENKISSA KNKIVSNFYFGGQAYQPGTIIIKFNEEIDETCAYSITFNFGWGKVYDNPFPFDTTSF TFSYIAQE.

1.15: Serotype 34 fiber protein

SCSCPSAPTIFMLLQMKRARPSEDTFNPVYPYEDESTSQHPFINPGFISPNGFTQ SPDGVLTLKCLTPLTTTGGSLQLKVGGGLTVDDTDGTLQKNIRATTPITKNNHSV ELTIGNGLETQHNKLCAKLGNGLKFNNGDICIKDSINTLWTGINPPPNCQIVENTN TNDGKLTLVLVKNGGLVNGYVSLVGVSDTVNQMFTQKTANIQLRLYFDSSGNL LTDESDLKIPLKNKSSTATSETVASSKAFMPSTTAYPFNTTTRDSENYIHGICYYM TSYDRSLFPLNISIMLNSRMISSNVAYAIQFEWNLNASESPEKQHMTLTTSPFFFSY IIEDDN.

1.16: Serotype 35 fiber protein

SCSCPSAPTIFMLLQMKRARPSEDTFNPVYPYEDESTSQHPFINPGFISPNGFTQ SPDGVLTLKCLTPLTTTGGSLQLKVGGGLTVDDTDGTLQENIRATAPITKNNHSV ELSIGNGLETQNNKLCAKLGNGLKFNNGDICIKDSINTLWTGINPPPNCQIVENTN TNDGKLTLVLVKNGGLVNGYVSLVGVSDTVNQMFTQKTANIQLRLYFDSSGNL LTEESDLKIPLKNKSSTATSETVASSKAFMPSTTAYPFNTTTRDSENYIHGICYYM TSYDRSLFPLNISIMLNSRMISSNVAYAIQFEWNLNASESPESNIMTLTTSPFFFSYI TEDDN.

1.17 Serotype 36 fiber protein

SCSCPSAPTIFMLLQMKRARPSEDTFNPVYPYGYARNQNIPFLTPPFVSSDGFK NFPPGVLSLKLADPIAIVNGDVSLKVGGGLTVEQDSGKLKVNPKIPLQVVNDQLE LATDKPFKIENNKLALDVGHGLKVIDKTISDLQGLVGKLVVLTGVGIGTETLKDK NDKVIGSAVNVRLGKDGGLDFNKKGDLVAWNRYDDRRTLWTTPDPSPNCKVS EAKDSKLTLVLTKCGSQILASVALLIVKGKYQTISESTIPKDQRNFSVKLMFDEKG KLLDKSSLDKEYWNFRSNDSVVGTAYDNAVPFMPNLKAYPKNTTTSSTNPDDKI SAGKKNIVSNVYLEGRVYQPVALTVKFNSENDCAYSITFDFVWSKTYESPVAFD SSSFTFSYIAQE.

1.18 Serotype 37 fiber protein

SCSCPSAPTIFMLLQMKRARPSEDTFNPVYPYGYARNQNIPFLTPPFVSSDGFK NFPPGVLSLKLADPITITNGDVSLKVGGGLTLQDGSLTVNPKAPLQVNTDKKLEL AYDNPFESSANKLSLKVGHGLKVLDEKSAAGLKDLIGKLVVLTGKGIGTENLEN TDGSSRGIGINVRAREGLTFDNDGYLVAWNPKYDLRTLWTTPDTSPNCTIAQDK DSKLTLVLTKCGSQILANVSLIVVAGKYHIINNKTNPKIKSFTIKLLFNKNGVLLD NSNLGKAYWNFRSGNSNVSTAYEKAIGFMPNLVAVSKPSNSKKYARDIVYGNIY LGGKPDQPGVIKTTFNQETGCEYSITFNFSWSKTYENVEFETTSFTFSYIAQE.

1.19 Serotype 38 fiber protein

SCSCPSAPTIFMLLQMKRARPSEDTFNPVYPYGYARNQNIPFXTPPFVXSDGFQ NFPPGVLSLKLADPITIANGNVSLKVGGGLTLEQDSGKLIVNXKAPLQVANDKLE LSYADPFETSANKLSLKVGHGLKVLDEKNAGGLKDLIGTLVVLTGKGIGVEELK NADNTNRGVGINVRLGKDGGLSFDKKGDXVAWNKHDDRRTLWTTPDPSPNCTI DEERDSKLTLVLTKCGSQILANVSLLVVKGKFSNINNNTNPTDKKITVKLLFNEK GVLMDSSSLKKEYWNYRNDNSTVSQAYDNAVPFMPNIKAYPKPTTDTSAKPED KKSAAKRYIVSNVYIGGLPDKTVVITIKLNAETESAYSMTFEFTWAKTFENLQFD SSSFTFSYIAQE.

1.20 Serotype 39 fiber protein

IRISPSSLPPLSPPMDSKTSPLGCYHSNWLTQSPSPMGMSHSRWEGGSPWQEGTG DLKVNAKSPLQVATNKQLEIALAKPFEEKDGKLALKIGHGLAVVDENHTHLQSL IGTLVILTGKGIGTGRAESGGTIDVRLGSGGGLSFDKDGNLVAWNKDDDRRTLW TTPDPSPNCKIDQDKDSKLTFVLTKCGSQILANMSLLVVKGKFSMINNKVNGTD DYKKFTIKLLFDEKGVLLKDSSLDKEYWNYRSNNNNVGSAYEEAVGFMPSTTA YPKPPTPPTNPTTPLEKSQAKNKYVSNVYLGGQAGNPVATTVSFNKETGCTYSIT FDFAWNKTYENVQC.

1.21: Serotype 42 fiber protein

SCSCPSAPTIFMLLQMKRARPSEDTFNPVYPYGYARNQNIPFLTPPFVSSDGFK NFPPGVLSLKLANPIAITNGDVSLKVGGGLTLQDGTGKLTIDTKTPLQVANNKLE LAFDAPLYEKNGKLALKTGHGLAVLTKDIGIPELIGSLVILTGKGIGTGTVAGGGT IDVRLGDDGGLSFDKKGDLVAWNKKNDRRTLWTTPDPSPNCRVSEDKDSKLTLI LTKCGSQILASFSLLVVXGTYTTVDKNTTNKQFSIKLLFDANGKLKSESNLSGYW NYRSDNSVVSTPYDNAVPFMPNTTAYPKIINSTTDPENKKSSAKKTIVGNVYLEG NAGOPVAVAISFNKETTADYSITFDFAWSKAYETPVPFDTSSMTFSYIAQE.

1.22: Serotype 43 fiber protein

NIPXLTPPFVSSDGFKNFPPGVLSLKLADPITITNGDVSLKVGGGLTVEKESGNLT VNPKAPLQVAKGQLELAYDSPFDVKNNMLTLKAGHGLAVVTKDNTDLQPLMG TLVVLTGKGIGTGTSAHGGTIDVRIGKNGSLAFDKDGDLVAWDKENDRRTLWT TPDTSPNCKMSEAKDSKLTLILTKCGSQILGSVSLLAVKGEYQNMTANTKKNVKI TLLFDANGVLLAGSSXXKEYWNFRSNDSTVSGNYENAVQFMPNITAYKPTNSKS YARSVIFGNVYIDAKPYNPVVIKISFNQETQNNCVYSISFDYTLSKDYPNMQFDV TLS

1.23: Serotype 44 fiber protein

NIPFLTPPFVSSDGFQNFPPGVLSLKLADPITITNGNVSLKVGGGLTLQEGTGDLK VNAKSPLQVATNKQLEIALAKPFEEKDGKLALKIGHGLAVVDENHTHLQSLIGTL VILTGKGIGTGSAESGGTIDVRLGSGGGLSFDKDGNLVAWNKDDDRRTLWTTPD PSPNCKIDQDKDSKLTFVLTKCGSQILANMSLLVVKGKFSMINNKVNGTDDYKK FTIKLLFDEKGVLLKDSSLDKEYWNYRSNNNNVGSAYEEAVGFMPSTTAYPKPP TPPTNPTTPLEKSQAKNKYVSNVYLGGQAGNPVATTVSFNKETGCTYSITFDFA WNKTYENVOFDSSF

1.24: Scrotype 45 fiber protein

NIPFLTPPFVSSDGFQNFPPGVLSLKLADPIAITNGDVSLKVGGGLTVEKDSGNLK VNPKAPLQVTTDKQLEIALAYPFEVSNGKLGIKAGHGLKVIDKIAGLEGLAGTLV VLTGKGIGTENLENSDGSSRGVGINVRLAKDGVLAFDKKGDLVAWNKHDDRRT LWTTPDPSPNCTIDQERDSKLTLVLTKCGSQILANVSLLVVKGKFSNINNNANPT DKKITVKLLFNEKGVLMDSSTLKKEYWNYRNDNSTVSQAYDNAVPFMPNIKAY PKPSTDTSAKPEDKKSAAKRYIVSNVYIGGLPDKTVVITIKFNAETECAYSITFEFT WAKTFEDVQCDSSSFT

1.25: Serotype 46 fiber protein

NIPFLTPPFVSSDGFKNFPPGVLSLKLADPIAIVNGDVSLKVGGGLTLQEGNLTVD AKAPLQVANDNKLELSYADPFEVKDTKLQLKVGHGLKVIDEKTSSGLQSLIGNL VVLTGKGIGTQELKDKDDETKNIGVGINVRIGKNESLAFDKDGNLVAWDNENDR RTLWTTPDTSSKFVKISTEKDSKLTLVLTKCGSQILASVSLLAVAGSYLNMTAST QKSIKVSLMFDSKGLLMTTSSIDKGYWNYRNKNSVVGTAYENAIPFMPNLVAYP RPNTPDSKIYARSKIVGNVYLAGLAYQPIVITVSFNQEKDASCAYSITFEFAWNKD YVGOFDTTSFT

1.26 Serotype 47 fiber protein

SCPSAPTIFMLLQMKRARPSEDTFNPVYPYGYARNQNIPFLTPPFVSSDGFKNF PPGVLSLKLADPITITNGDVSLKVGGGLTLQEGTGNLTVNAKAPLQVADDKKLE LSYDNPFEVSANKLSLKVGHGLKVLDEKNSGGLQELIGKLVILTGKGIGVEELKN ADNTNRGVGINVRLGKDGGLSFDKKGELVAWNKHNDTRTLWTTPDPSPNCKIE QDKDSKLTLVLTKCGSQILATMAFQVVKGTYENISKNTAKKSFSIKLLFDDNGKL LEGSSLDKDYWNFRNDDSIMPNQYDNAVPFMPNLKAYPNPKTSTVLPSTDKKSN GKNTIVSNLYLEGKAYQPVAVTITFNKETGCTYSITFEFGWAKTYDVPIPFDSSSF TFSYIAQE.

1.27: Serotype 48 fiber protein SDIPFLTPPFVSSDGFQNFPPGVLSLKLADPITITNGNVSLKVGGGLTLQEGTGDLK VNAKSPLQVATNKQLEIALAKPFEEKDGKLALKIGHELAVVDENLTHLQSLIGTL VILTGKGIGTGRAESGGTIDVRLGSGGGGLSFDKDGNLVAWNKDDDRRTLWTTPD PSPNCKIDQDKDSKLTFVLTKCGSQILANMSLLVVKGKFSMINNKVNGTDDYKK FTIKLLFDEKGVLLKDSSLDKEYWNYRSNNNNVGSAYEEAVGFMPSTTAYPKPP TPPTNPTTPLEKSQAKNKYVSNVYLGGQAGNPVATTVSFNKETGCTYSITFDFA WNKTYKMAFIPRFNF

1.28: Serotype 49 fiber protein

SCSCPSAPTIFMLLQMKRARPSEDTFNPVYPYGYARNQNIPFLTPPFVSSDGFQ NFPPGVLSLKLADPIAITNGNVSLKVGGGLTVEQDSGNLKVNPKAPLQVATDNQ LEISLADPFEVKNKKLSLKVGHGLKVIDENISTLQGLLGNLVVLTGMGIGTEELK KDDKIVGSAVNVRLGQDGGLTFDKKGDLVAWNKENDRRTLWTTPDPSPNCKVS EEKDSKLTLVLTKCGSQILASVSLLVVKGKFANINNKTNPGEDYKXFSVKLLFDA NGKLLTGSSLDGNYWNYKNKDSVIGSPYENAVPFMPNSTAYPKIINNGTANPED KKSAAKKTIVTNVYLGGDAAKPVATTISFNKETESNCVYSITFDFAWNKTYKNV PFDSSSLTFSYIAQE.

1.29.: Serotype 51 Fiber protein

SCSCPSAPTIFMLLQMKRARPSEDTFNPVYPYEDESTSQHPFINPGFISPNGFTQ SPDGVLTLNCLTPLTTTGGPLQLKVGGGLIVDDTDGTLQENIRVTAPITKNNHSV ELSIGNGLETQNNKLCAKLGNGLKFNNGDICIKDSINTLWTGIKPPPNCQIVENTD TNDGKLTLVLVKNGGLVNGYVSLVGVSDTVNQMFTQKSATIQLRLYFDSSGNLL TDESNLKIPLKNKSSTATSEAATSSKAFMPSTTAYPFNTTTRDSENYIHGICYYMT SYDRSLVPLNISIMLNSRTISSNVAYAIQFEWNLNAKESPESNIATLTTSPFFFSYIIE DTTKCISLCYVSTCLFFN

Figure 8:

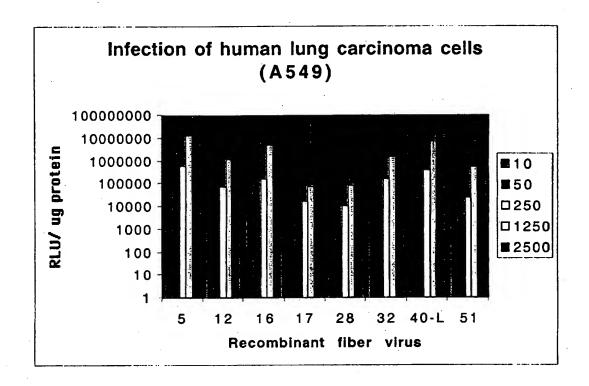


Figure 9

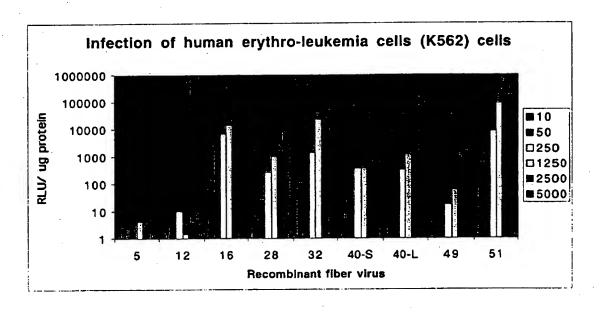


Figure 10

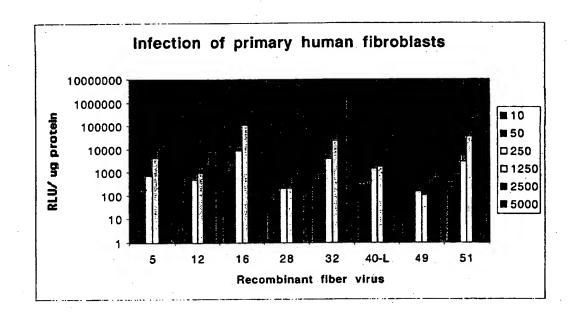


Figure 11

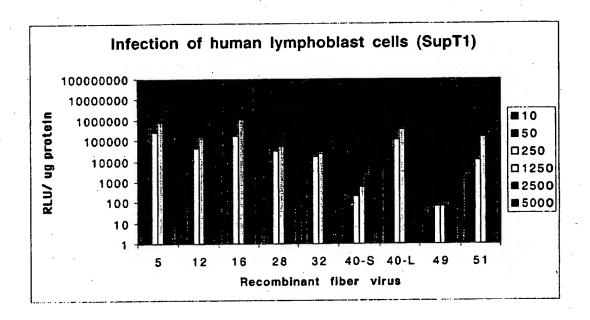


Figure 12

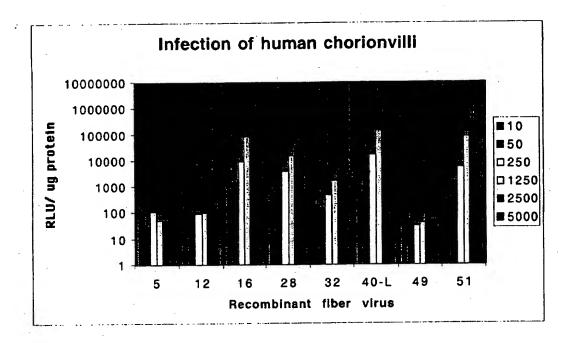
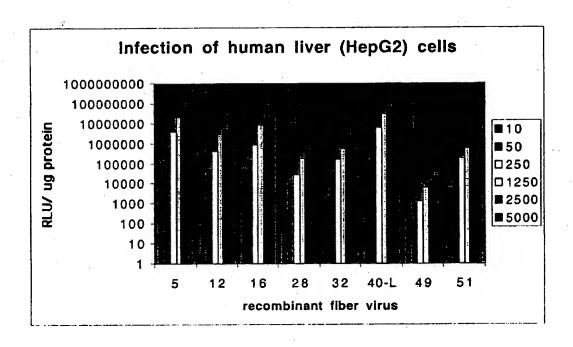


Figure 13





Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention P 99 20 2234 shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

	DOCUMENTS CONSIDE	ERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document with in	dication, where appropriate,	Relevant	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.CL7)
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ī	* page 3, line 22 - * page 5, line 27 - * page 5, line 26 - * page 9, line 26 - * page 25; example * figures 4,5,7 * * sequences 2, 3 *	page 4, line 2 * page 9, line 2 * page 10, line 16 *		C07K14/705
X	matched early regio vectors prevent gen replication-compete HUMAN GENE THERAPY, vol. 9, no. 9,	nt adenoviruses"	15,16	
	1 September 1998 (1 1909-1917, XP002111 ISSN: 1043-0342 * page 1909 * * abstract *	998-09-01), pages 070		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
	T abstract T	-/	*	C12N
INCO	MPLETE SEARCH		<u> </u>	
not comp be carrie Claims s	rch Division considers that the present by with the EPC to such an extent that d out, or can only be carried out partia earched completely:	application, or one or more of its claims, do a meaningful search into the state of the art thy, for these claims.	es/do cannot	
Claims n	ot searched :			
	for the limitation of the search: sheet C			
	Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner
	THE HAGUE	8 June 2000	Sit	ch, W
X:pa	CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS ricularly relevant it taken sione ricularly relevant it combined with ano current of the same category	E : earlier patent d after the filing of ther D : document cited	locument, but publi late	ished on, or



INCOMPLETE SEARCH SHEET C

Application Number EP 99 20 2234

Although claims 1, 2 partially, insofar as such concern in vivo methods, are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body (Article 52(4) EPC), the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.

Claim(s) not searched: 18, 19

Reason for the limitation of the search:

Present claims 18 and 19 relate to a compound (a cell receptor / binding site) defined by reference to a desirable characteristic or property, namely that such is for adenovirus type D and/or F, and is present on or is associated with CAR negative cells. No concrete structural data, or defining parameters, in relation to the cell receptor, are provided by the application. Example 7 on pages 43-45 of the application describes a protocol by which putative adherence molecules involved in adenovirus subgroup B, D and F binding and internalisation may be identified; no such identification / characterisation of the putative cell receptor or receptors is actually made however.

Claims 18 and 19 cover all compounds having the above-mentioned characteristics or properties, and yet the application provides no support within the meaning of Article 84 EPC and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 83 EPC for any of such compounds which may fall under such a definition. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search of the claims is impossible. Consequently, no search has been carried out in respect of these claims.



Application Number

EP 99 20 2234

	DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)	
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
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X	MEI YA-FANG ET AL: "Highly heterogeneous fiber genes in the two closely related adenovirus genome types Ad35p and Ad34a." VIROLOGY 1995, vol. 206, no. 1, 1995, pages 686-689, XP002139780 ISSN: 0042-6822 * page 688; figure 2 *	20-23	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IM.CL7)
D,X	ARNBERG NIKLAS ET AL: "Fiber genes of adenoviruses with tropism for the eye and the genital tract." VIROLOGY 1997, vol. 227, no. 1, 1997, pages 239-244, XPO02139781 ISSN: 0042-6822 * page 240; figure 1 *	20-23	*
X	DATABASE EMBL SEQUENCE DATABASE 'Online! Hinxton, UK Accession no. 056784. TREMBL., 1 June 1998 (1998-06-01) PRING-AKERBLOM ET AL: "Human Adenovirus type 28 Fiber Protein" XP002139784	20-23	
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ategory	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
x -	DATABASE EMBL SEQUENCE DATABASE 'Online! Hinxton, UK Accession no. Q67733. TREMBL., 1 November 1996 (1996-11-01) BASLER ET AL: "Human Adenovirus Type 35 Fiber" XP002139785	20-23	
X	DATABASE EMBL SEQUENCE DATABASE 'Online! Hinxton, UK Accession no. Q67712. TREMBL., 1 November 1996 (1996-11-01) SHIEH: "Human Adenovirus type 12 Fiber Protein" XP002139786	20-23	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.CL7)
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'	BASLER C F ET AL: "Sequence of the immunoregulatory early region 3 and flanking sequences of adenovirus type 35" GENE,NL,ELSEVIER BIOMEDICAL PRESS. AMSTERDAM, vol. 170, no. 2, 8 May 1996 (1996-05-08), pages 249-254, XP004042835 ISSN: 0378-1119 * page 249 * abstract *	5	
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Y	WICKHAM T J ET AL: "Increased in vitro and in vivo gene transfer by adenovirus vectors containing chimeric fiber	6	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.CI.7)
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	1 November 1997 (1997-11-01), pages 8221-8229, XP002078898 ISSN: 0022-538X * page 8221 * * abstract *		
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	JOURNAL OF CLINICAL INVESTIGATION FEB., 1999, vol. 103, no. 4, February 1999 (1999-02), pages 579-587, XP002139783		
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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 99 20 2234

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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08-06-2000

Ci	Patent document cited in search report			Publication date			Patent family member(s)			.	Publ d	ication ate
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